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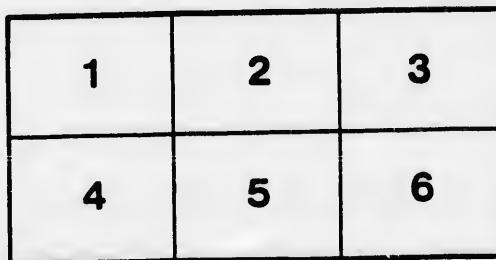
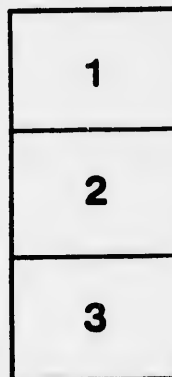
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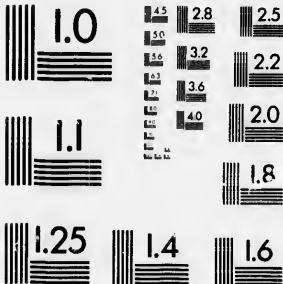
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RETURN

TO

AN ADDRESS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

FOR

DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE INVESTIGATION

INTO THE CONDUCT OF

C. E. BELLE, ESQUIRE,

IMMIGRANT AGENT AT MONTREAL

DOCUMENTS OFFICIELS

OCT 18 1971

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

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RETURN

TO

AN ADDRESS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

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QUEBEC :

1874.



To

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ANSWER

To an Address of the Legislative Assembly, of the Province of Quebec, to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, dated the twelfth day of December last, asking copies of all the documents concerning the inquiry into the conduct of C. E. Belle, Esquire. Immigration Agent at Montreal, comprising the commission and instructions addressed to C. A. Leblanc, Esquire. The Commissioner's Report, with the evidence accompanying it, and all correspondence addressed to Mr. Belle or received from him.

By Command,

(Signed,)

GEDEON OUMET,

Secretary.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

Quebec, 19th January, 1874.

No. 21.

Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honorable the Executive Council, dated 28th January, 1873, approved by the Lieutenant-Governor the 28th January, 1873.

Upon the appointment of a }
Commissioner of *enquêtes*. }

The Honorable the Commissioner of Agriculture and Public Works, in a report dated twenty-eighth January instant, (1873), sets forth that certain accusations have been made by one Hans Muller, Parotte and Vancaester, against Charles E. Belle Esquire, in his quality of Immigration Agent at Montreal.

That the said C. E. Belle, to whom these charges have been communicated, by letter dated the fourteenth January instant, demands, in the interest of the department and in justice to himself, that an investigation be made into his conduct as Immigration Agent.

The Honorable the Commissioner recommends, in consequence, that the investigation prayed for by the said C. E. Belle take place without delay, and that Charles A. Leblanc, Esq., Sheriff of the District of Montreal, be charged to make the said enquiry in the quality of Commissioner, with all power inherent to that end, and in virtue of the act respecting enquiries concerning public matters. 32 Vict., ch. 8.

The Committee concur in the above report, and submit it for the approbation of the Lieutenant-Governor.

[Certified,]

F. FORTIER,
Clerk Ex. Council.

To the Honorable the
Provincial Secretary,
&c., &c., &c.

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Province of Quebec.

The Honorable Sir Narcisse Fortunat Belleau, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Quebec, &c., &c.

To all to whom, &c.—

GREETING :

WHEREAS, certain accusations have been brought by the within named Hans Muller, Parotte and Vancouver against Charles E. Belle, Esquire, Immigration Agent at the City of Montreal, in our Province of Quebec. Accordingly under the authority of an Act of the Legislature of the Province of Quebec, passed during the session held in the thirty-second year of Her Majesty's Reign, and intitled : " An Act respecting enquiries concerning public matters," and with the advice and consent of Her Majesty's Executive Council for the said Province, I, Sir Narcisse Fortunat Belleau, Lieutenant-Governor of the said Province, have committed, constituted and appointed, and by these presents do commit, constitute and appoint, Charles André Leblanc, Esquire, Queen's Counsel of the said City of Montreal, Commissioner, to hold an enquiry into the said accusations ; and I authorize by these presents the said Charles André Leblanc, in his capacity of Commissioner as above, to summon before him all persons or witnesses, and to hear their evidence under oath, either by word of mouth, or in writing, (or under solemn affirmation if any of the witnesses have the right to affirm in civil matters,) and to make them produce such documents and things as the said Charles André Leblanc shall judge necessary for the perfect investigation into the subject matter with which he is charged to enquire ; For the said Charles André Leblanc to hold and exercise the said office of Commissioner for the purposes above mentioned during good will and pleasure ; and I enjoin by these presents the said Charles André Leblanc to make report of the said enquiry with all possible diligence.

Given, &c.

Project. Quebec, the 20th January, 1873.

GEDEON OUIMET,

Attorney-General.

By JOSEPH A. DEFOY,

Assistant.

No. 21.

COPY of a Report of a Committee of the Honorable the Executive Council, dated 28th January, 1873, approved by the Lieutenant-Governor, the 28th January, 1873.

Upon the appointment of a)
Commissioner of *enquête*.)

The Honorable the Commissioner of Agriculture and Public Works, in a report dated twenty-eighth January instant, 1873, set forth, that certain accusations had been made by the named Hans Muller, Parotte, and Vancaster, against Charles E. Belle, Esquire, in his quality of Agent of Immigration at Montreal.

That the said C. E. Belle, to whom these charges have been communicated, by letter dated the fourteenth January instant, demands, in the interest of the Department and in justice to himself, that an investigation be made into his conduct as Immigration Agent.

The Honorable the Commissioner recommends in consequence, that the investigation prayed for by the said C. E. Belle, take place without delay, and that Charles A. Leblanc, Esq., Sheriff of the District of Montreal, be directed to make the said enquiry in the quality of Commissioner with all power inherent to that end, and in virtue of the act relating to enquiries into public affairs, 32 Viet., Chap. 8.

The Committee concur in the above report and submit it for the approbation of the Lieutenant-Governor.

(Certified,)

F. FORTIER,
Clerk Ex-Council.

To the Honorable the
Commissioner of A. and P. W.,
&c., &c., &c.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS, PROVINCE
OF QUEBEC.

L. E. No. 7344, }
Ref. to No. 19,473, }
19,540. }

Quebec, 30th January, 1873.

SIR,

I am directed by the Honorable the Commissioner, to forward to you enclosed, the different original documents forming the record of accusations brought against C. E. Belle, Esquire, Immigration Agent at Montreal, with the manuscript letter of that gentleman, dated the 14th instant, and Order in Council No. 21, of the 29th January *ultimo*, instituting an enquiry into the conduct of Mr. Belle upon the subject of these accusations, and appointing C. A. Leblanc, Esquire, Sheriff of Montreal, Commissioner of enquiry for instruction in this affair.

The Honorable the Commissioner relies upon your obligingness to transmit these different documents to Mr. Leblanc's address as soon as possible.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

E. MOREAU,
Secretary.

P. J. JOLICŒUR, Esq.,
Assistant Provincial Secretary,
Quebec.

31st January, 1873.

SIR,

I have the honor to transmit to you enclosed, a commission appointing you Commissioner, to institute an enquiry into the charges brought against Charles E. Belle, Esquire, Immigration Agent at Montreal.

I also enclose to you, at the same time, the different documents relating to this affair.

You will please acknowledge receipt of them:

I have the honor,

P. J. J.,
Asst.-Secy.

C. A. LEBLANC, Esq., Q. C.,
Sheriff of the District of Montreal.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE,

Montreal, 1st February, 1873.

SIR,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of the commission appointing me commissioner, to institute an enquiry into the charges brought against Mr. Charles E. Belle, Immigration Agent, at Montreal, as well as the different documents relating to this affair.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

C. A. LEBLANC.

P. J. JOLICŒUR, Esq.,
Asst.-Secy.

Quebec, March 20th, 1873.

By Telegraph from Montreal,

TO THE LT.-GOVR. OF PROV. OF QUEBEC:

The Sheriff has ruled that his instructions restrict his enquiry in the Belle case, to the allegations made in Muller's complaint. As representatives of the National Societies, we request that his instructions may be made to cover all charges against Mr. Belle's management of the Emigrants Home, we make a formal application by mail.

NATHAN MERCER.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE,

Montreal, 21st April.

The Honorable Provincial Secretary
of the Province of Quebec.

SIR,

I have the honor to transmit to you enclosed, the complete record of the Belle enquiry, which you will be pleased to place before His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province.

Please accept expression, Sir, of my distinguished consideration.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

 ENDORSEMENT.

QUEBEC—No. 111.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, 1873.

 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.
Quebec, 28th and 29th January, 1873.

O. C. appointing a Commissioner to institute an enquiry into the affair of Hans Muller, Parotte, and Vancaster, against Charles E. Belle, Esquire, in his quality of Immigration Agent at Montreal.

 SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Quebec, 29th January, 1873.

Referred to the Hon. Attorney-General for a draft of the commission.

By order,

PH. J. JOLICŒUR,
Assistant-Secretary.

30th January, 1873—Draft of commission herewith enclosed ;
commission engrossed.

30th January, 1873—The Department of Agriculture and
Public Works transmit original documents relating to this affair.

31st January, 1873—Acknowledgment of the receipt, of com-
mission transmitted by letter with these documents enclosed to
C. A. Leblanc, Esquire.

1st February, 1873—Mr. Leblanc acknowledges receipt.

20th March, 1873—Telegram herewith enclosed.

21st and 22nd April, 1873—C. A. Leblanc, Esq., Commis-
sioner, transmits report of the investigation in the Belle affair.

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THE
IMMIGRANTS' HOME

No. 151, ST. ANTOINE STREET,

MONTREAL,

UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION OF

C. E. BELLE,

IMMIGRATION AGENT.

In preface I wish to say a few words on that class of Immigrants who leave their homes in the Old Country with the avowed intention of settling in the Province of Quebec; at which resolution they have arrived in most cases by the influence of Agents.

It may be said their gate of entrance into this Province is the Port of Quebec—so very few coming by way of New York—and their gate of exit therefrom is Montreal; for if they change their mind from some cause for migrating on farther and leaving Montreal, they are lost to this Province.

A small portion of this class of immigrants is placed at Quebec and vicinity, and in the Eastern Townships; the greater portion is forwarded on to Montreal, which is therefore of major

importance as Provincial Immigration Agency, demanding much care and attentive treatment of the immigrant; for even the immigrant who comes amongst us with the preconceived idea of remaining with us, has behind, lurking in his mind, a secret longing for the United States, and is easily disposed to consider it the land of greater promise.

The immigrant is well satisfied with his reception in Quebec, and his lodgings and fare at Marquette's House, Point Levi, as the guest of the Province. The praise is in every one's mouth of the gentlemanly and benevolent Mr. Lesage, Deputy-Commissioner; and the kind-hearted Mr. Thom, Immigration Agent; altogether everything that has produced a good impression on the immigrant of people and country.

This class of immigrants has left their homes under promise, that the most cordial welcome would be extended to them by Government and people here, and every reasonable assistance would be afforded to help them on, and make them in due time more comfortable than they were. So they come with this kind of expectations, and a sort of title to it in their opinion; wherefore shortcomings in the fulfilment of inducements held out will disappoint this class more bitterly.

Generally speaking, the immigrant is at once the most credulous and most suspicious of all mortals; his confidence is as readily given as retired, and it is of the most essential importance that the Immigration Officer keeps everything above board, and stands without suspicion. If the confidence of the immigrant is shaken in the agent, and he thinks himself victimized to his purposes of vain self and pelf, even unto the breaking of the Fourth Commandment, towards him, then he becomes unmanageable to advice, he is done and dejected with everything, and will flee again from the country, whenever that is or comes within his means.

The ill-success of the administration of the Provincial Immigration Agency here by C. E. Belle, brings this home in remarkable wise, and demonstrates this clearly yet sadly; whereof a full exposition is due to the public, and which forms the main subject of the present treatise.

Come O Montreal! Thou munificent and magnificent Simiramis, Queen of the two Canadas, with thy heaven towering temple, thy proud palaces, thy luxurious gardens, and thy hanging bridges, one of the world's wonders. Condescend, O Queen of the Canadas, to come along with me, to No. 151, St. Antoine street, the house, ironically called the Immigrants' Home, when it is the immigrants' curse, yea in reality a dirty, filthy, lousy old hovel; thou knowest not how thy immigrant visitors are treated here. Lend me thy patient ear, and I will show it and describe it to thee.

Thy narrator is a poor humble man, the man whose misdeeds he is going to lay bare, is rich, high and mighty in office, and in lands and in properties; yet he is fearless, trusting in his good cause, and O Montreal! in thy great protecting powers—thy well balanced scales and thy sword of justice!

Under circumstances, after arrival here, the immigrant is often sorely tried in waiting till the gates of the precious Home do open for him; for Mr. Belle has commanded, that immigrants arriving by special train after midnight, shall be kept in the Bonaventure Station till after five o'clock in the morning, when they can be brought up to the Home, and that before this time mentioned, the Home shall not be opened to them; by which cruel order the poor immigrants and their little ones are compelled to pass the remainder of the long night on the bare boards of the floor and benches in the waiting room of the station, packed together like spoons in a dozen on a sultry night, after a tedious journey from Quebec, as it happens sometimes, after having been eighteen and twenty hours *en route* in the suffocating heat of the crowded cars on a hot day, and as it often was, their second night without a night's rest. The atmosphere in the waiting room, when I called for the immigrants in the morning was something terrible. Mr. Kirkham, the station-master, always strongly objected to this arrangement, but since nobody would open the doors for the poor people, what else could he do. To my contra, Mr. Belle would *haughtily* reply:—"you don't expect for a moment, that the Home can be kept open all night." Mention should be made here of a case of exception where, by some means, the immigrants gained

entrance in the Home after midnight, I beave through some ruse of the night watchman at the station. At any rate, on my calling at the station in the morning for the immigrants, I was informed they were up in the Home this good while. Arriving there, and the first immigrant I met with was an old man, piteously begging for water and place of rest, as his tired out feet would not support him any longer. Both I had to procure in the growling teeth of the then guardian, who was anything but pleased with the intrusion of immigrants at the unwonted hour, and would therefore do nothing for them. Next I came upon the body of immigrants, about thirty in number, huddled together in one small room, furnished with but one table and one bench, the only place allotted to them, and by change of every imaginable contortion striving to make out a resting place. On sighting me, they all cried with one voice: "Let us have water, and let us out of this." I had to fight nearly over every inch of ground in the Home before I succeeded to get water for them and the chance of a washing. After they were bound to leave the Home and its terrors, I had to beg hard on them, to stay, till I could fetch Mr. Belle, whereto they only consented at last out of consideration for me. When Mr. Belle came, he did so upon his high horse; he examined into the case with magisterial airs, like if he had been called on the scene as a magistrate; in fine, he blamed the whole unpleasant occurrence to the disobedience of his orders, so explicitly given, that no immigrants should be admitted to the Home before six in the morning. All of them were Scotch, and a finer lot of young men in every respect will rarely be seen. Subsequently they made good use of their time, to scatter to the four winds as quick as possible. So far so good, their names in the book, and no further trouble to the Immigration Agent.

This was about water; perhaps in proper order, I should have mentioned first an other case of complaint about fire, that happened a good while before. Complaint being made for the want of fire by two Belgian Families with many little children, very decent people and particularly gentle and polite. When I entered the office at nine one severely cold April morning, there was no fire lighted there yet, no where except in the kitchen. The two Belgian mothers and their little families surrounded me at once,

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one holding a baby of only six weeks in her arms, and complained bitterly of this kind of treatment, showing me their little ones blue with cold; that the wood had been locked up against them the evening before, immediately after my leaving the office, therefore they had been without fire ever since, nor any place to go too where to warm themselves, the kitchen had been forbidden to them. I told the men to make direct complaint to Mr. Belle. What good came of it, when it was brought before him, he replied in a few high flung sentences to the tune: "You must take things here as they are, they cost you nothing at any rate." Right after the men showed me their purses, containing several hundred gold pieces, saying to me: "if treated like paupers, you'll see, we are not; there is over a dozen families ready to come after us, we know now what we have to write to them." They themselves wanted to settle on the Ottawa, but the retardation in opening of navigation, necessitated their prolonged stay at the Home.

On admittance to the Home, the first thing required of the immigrant is, to step into the office, give his name, and have it entered in a book. "What's in a name!" Mr. Belle can answer with a knowing smile: "There is a good deal in a name, and in many names, a great deal more." Afterwards, the immigrant is invited to visit the bath or washing-room, a miserable small place, and what is worse, constantly in a disgusting dirty state; and it is a piece of gross indecency, that it must serve both males and females. The dining-room is an irregular morsel of passage, totally inadequate; and about the kitchen, it's better not to be too inquisitive.

In the side building is a dormitory for males, one step down from the yard, well known to Mr. Belle as a damp and unhealthy place. The large shed in the yard is another dormitory for males, built to order, and under supervision of Mr. Belle, with much ingenuity. Two large trees, undisturbed in mother earth, are piercing their living frames through the roof of this shed, and holding their green heads triumphantly above board; but since trees cannot continue to live without water, so when it rains, they cunningly let some water come down in a way, that it is refresh-

ing to both the immigrants, and their roots below, whereby they often play on the poor fellows in the strangest dreams, if they don't awaken to stern reality.

However Mr. Belle can afford to let ignorant people talk, for he knows that the *building* of the shed has been a success after all.

But really it is no fun to sleep in these dormitories just mentioned; the use of only a wretched thinly crushed straw-bed, spread on hard boards to lay upon, with no sheeting, no covering whatsoever, yet alive with tormenting creepers of every known species. If imagination adds the possible occurrence of a chilly night, and there is no jesting about it.

Not enough, as if all the Egyptian plagues were in store for the poor strangers from distant lands, there is located, just halfway between these two dormitories, the closets, a horrible affair, much too small in its appurtenances, never emptied during the whole season, always in a beastly state, sending its poisonous sickening vapours into the dormitories, and threatening them with pestilence.

No poetry about all this, it is the bare truth.

In the second flat are two good sized rooms, used alternately as dormitories for males and females; since the cold weather commenced in earnest, they have been given up altogether to the males. In consequence of this arrangement, all the rooms in the Attic have been set apart for the females and their small children to sleep in. The uncleanness in the latter region, from scarcity of change, is best designated, as indescribable.

Man and wife are separated in the Home as far as sleeping is concerned, for reasons best known to Mr. Belle.

The food is plentiful enough, but a tiresome sameness; every day in the year for dinner, cabbage-soup with potatoes and beef; the meat boiled down to tasteless nothing, unfit for the knife, dispensing with it altogether; it is dealt out in that care for nothing in your manner, understood in every tongue without the words:—"if you don't like it, please yourself." Indeed it is Mr. Belle's behest, to make short work with grumblers, and to tell them *sans cérémonie* "leave and do better."

The colonel honours the Home frequently, by taking luncheon in a little room up stairs ; I dare say, in so doing, he acts for the once in practical accord with what he reminds others :—" it might be better cooked, but then it costs nothing." With-al the Colonel is naturally extremely gallant, and inclined to indulge the cook and her nice little daughter of only eighteen summers, for both are not long out in this country ; and in recognition of their highly commendable qualities—great attentiveness on his grandeur, he would overlook such trifles, as no table-cloth, and other little shortcomings at his solitary repast.

All this may be very well in the little room up stairs of aristocratic seclusion, that has nothing to do with the immigrant. Yet the stranger thinks he might have a little something to do with the Home fare, to look at it any how.

The neglectful uncleanness everywhere, the roughly low state and hard features of the whole establishment, is of a *tout ensemble*, that is producing its evil influences on the immigrants remarkably soon, almost as quick as the names are taken down. A countenance who, at the arrival a few moments before, was yet hopeful with animated plans :—a rosy avenue leading to a nice little cottage, in care of the future charming little wife of his, and so forth, has become overcast with depression. The sight of the place and all its appointments, and particularly where he is going to sleep, has undone him completely, overrunning him with a cold chill. The mother of the little children there looks very sad. You will see them forming in groups, discussing matters and things, and the strange pronunciation of the prominent cities of our neighbours, Chicago foremost, that strike your ear, plainly tell the drift of conversation, and where they want to drift themselves as soon as possible. The immigrant naturally argues, what may be expected from the country, when a city like Montreal does not provide him at least with a place of common decency. And it may be borne in mind with this, that the lower Province, and notably Montreal, are by no means favourites, particularly not if the English speaking immigrant has already come in contact with the Ontario Immigration Agent, or the French speaking with Franco-Canadians migrating over to Uncle Sam's Dominion.

Different nations express their dissatisfaction in different manners. The Anglo-Saxon, Celtic and Teutonic races take things quiet enough, if they know they must for want of funds; but any of them yet flush, will think of nothing else than to clear out again at the shortest; if they take one meal at the Home that's all, the majority takes it from a guess, and leaves without waiting for the spread. No ill-wind that does not blow well for somebody, the large numbers cover a multitude of accounts, when in reality they have not been so hard on the figures. If one of the just mentioned races remains any longer at the Home than he can help it, put him down as a mean man for sure, or a lazy man, or a drunkard, who will put up with anything to gratify his one all-absorbing passion. His more or less prolonged unnecessary stay at the Home is the unerring barometer of the state of his atmosphere.

Yet, it would be entirely erroneous and unjust to go by the same barometer in regard to the Latin races, particularly the French speaking. The Frenchman—not in general, but not of rare occurrence—may even contest his prolonged stay with the powers that be, and yet may be an industrious, sober and respectable man in every way you take him, yea, he may try to hang on when thoroughly disgusted with the Home, and continually grumbling over it. He is generally of a more saving turn of mind, and thinks he has a right to scrape some money back from the institution that uses him *mal-à-propos*, indeed he is of opinion he holds good claim against the Home. Besides, he understands better than any other nation to improve on badly cooked victuals with one little dainty or the other, and the late terrible catastrophe through which his country passed, has inured him to rough it.

On one thing the immigrants of all nations are in accord on their arrival at the Home: they believe themselves deceived, and the Agent and his officers the deceivers. The hard facts of the Home wont tally at all, not even with one of the one thousand and one stories they have listened to. It follows, of course, that the immigrants are not inclined to hold their counsel in much estimation. As a rule, I saw the most foolish outside advice preferred to the directions of the bureau. I observed with astonishment, how

quickly Mr. Belle became their object of suspicion, who, they said, considered them as mere ciphers in calculation, how much per head. They soon commenced to evade interviewing and conversing with him. Many times, Mr. Belle exclaimed: "Where are the men, I can't get a sight of them."

The French have shown this year in considerable and universal numbers, in consequence of the great misfortunes and calamities that befell their country. *L'amour pour la belle France* is deeply seated with them, and with the Frenchman, immigration means expatriation in its painful sense. The violent communistic eruptions and its accompanying horrors have damaged his cause, and he has been treated a good deal to the cold shoulder on this account, particularly from his Canadian Cousins, yet wrongly and undeservedly so, as far as the class of French immigrants is concerned that we received here. They hold but a very few, if any at all, of the deep-dyed communists, indeed I contend, not any more communistic element than is now a days found in immigrants of every other nation from the working class. The French immigrants that passed through my hands, and that is nearly all of them, for Montreal, are of a very good and respectable class, that is welcome everywhere. I found them, as a body, sober and industrious, and most willing workers, peaceable and well disposed; the women clean, neat and proper, first-rate experts in every work that requires the needle, and equally anxious with the men to find employment of some kind. The majority of our French immigrants are skilled artisans of every imaginable fabric, worth inestimably more than their weight in gold to colonial industry and manufacture, struggling in its infancy and for its very life.

The artisans skilled in the manufacture of every fabric useful and fancy, that came at certain epochs from the Countries over the Sea, mainly contributed to the greatness of the Empire, whereon the Sun never sets—the Britannia that rules the Waves.

Most of the French artisans have left us again, carrying with them their wealth to other Zones. A good deal of the cause for this can be traced to that aversion which the Home first started



in them. They can be counted by the hundred, that a day or two after their arrival, turned their backs to the Home, and to Montreal and Canada at the same time.

The enormous immigration this year of skilled artisans from France, Alsace and Lorraine into the United States, will soon show its telling effects in the markets of our neighbours, by offering goods at home manufacture that used to be imported.

The numberless letters written by immigrants at the Home to friends over the Ocean, all complaining more or less of the treatment at the Home, with warnings not to come to Canada, make me fear everything for the good prospects of Immigration to this Province.

The book of arrivals at the Home is imposition, if for purposes of demonstrating, how many immigrants have been cared for, and provided with places. I mean in reality; the little book kept for immigrants to inscribe their names therein as expressive of satisfaction with treatment at the Home, is a kind of Mountebank Trickery, if attempted to pass it as *bona-fide*. Mr. Belle knows this, and so do I.

This is a very deplorable state of affairs in the face of the increased demand and scarcity of help in the household, and in every branch of labour and manufacture; and the more regrettable in presence of the fact, that this Province was perhaps never before visited by equally large numbers of the best immigrants.

Facts speak volumes; never heard complaints of thefts having been committed at the Home by immigrants, though their baggage was always kept in a very loose and inviting sort of way. One small theft once complained of could not be charged to them, but has been traced to quite unexpected and unsuspected quarters. I know of no row amongst immigrants at the Home, not counting an exceptional skirmish they had with the cook.

Where then! Mr. Belle, are your immigrants? Where!!

With change of name, this Province may break out in the lament of the Roman Emperor: "Varus! Varus!! give back, give back to me, my Legions."

Mr. Belle is in the habit of visiting the Home once every day, and occasionally twice and thrice; his most regular time is at noon, at or a little before dinner time, not so much to judge the soup as to pass judgment on the soup-eaters. Then he sweeps in like a Spanish grandee of Castilian blood and arrogance, with disdainful air and contemptuous look down upon the plebs of immigrants, and without condescending to as much as a nod of greeting, unless the wearer of a distinguished apparel, either male or female, be amongst them. Blowing from the exertion he gains the office. He acts in this way for effect of creating fear; only after having taken the chair of presidium. I was ordered to pass the new arrivals in muster before him, or present him to the immigrants as the grand agent.

In adherence to his aristocratic view he may first question his subordinate in charge, if he has completed during his absence some insignificant little arrangements of his, or if he has certain entries made in the pettifogging red tape formalities as prescribed by him; well enough at leisure hours, as there may be some ultimate benefit for him in it after all; but sadly out of fact and place, when this officer, who has all the business proper on his shoulders, is surrounded by fifty and more immigrants, who put to him all sorts of questions in babellike confusion of languages. Mr. Belle is always in a more or less turbulent state of agitation, according to rise and fall in numbers of immigrants at the Home. All in one breath he demands the book of arrivals, if all the names have been entered, if they are all provided with addresses for situations, if they are very busied in search of, adding, the temperature here stands to high, keep at them, show them up, keep them going, the numbers must be greatly diminished by tomorrow. And he would continue in this unseemly heartless fuss in spite of my remonstrance, that the poor fellows were not a hour in the House, had not had time yet to shake the dust off their clothes, as it really was frequently the case.

At this junction a person may step into the office wanting to hire an immigrant. This applicant is at once eagerly taken in hand by Mr. Belle; if it should happen that none of the immigrants present can answer to the speciality of the demand, no matter,

Mr. Belle's eloquence grows wonderful in such difficult cases, surpassing in power the yankee pedlar in the act of palming off a brass watch for a gold one. If the applicant gives way to persuasion and takes the evidently unsuitable immigrant, in nine cases out of ten, the latter comes back after a few days, disheartened. If the immigrants obstinately refuse to go with the would-be employer, pleading his unfitness for the task or insufficiency of wages, then Mr. Belle becomes very angry and abusive, and almost as a rule orders him to leave the Home.

In this way he hired out a Parisian office writer to a sturdy Irish farmer; of course before the week was out, both parties returned to the office with noise and mutual recriminations. The poor office writer had bought a pair of strong boots for the rustic sojourn, and demanded from the farmer at least the price of the boots refunded, and to the honour of my brave Irish farmer, be it said, he came down with the requested three dollars.

An other time I found Mr. Belle trying with all his might, as if it was to save the country from bankruptcy, to get at the soft side of a Canadian farmer, to induce him to hire and take right along with him a hardy Flemming family, consisting of father and mother, six children and the aunt, the mother's sister. It was a pleasure to look upon this family, the very ideal of the stock for the backwood country. The man, good looking and of powerful frame for endurance, his female mates quite up with him in these marks; of the children it was hard to say, which was the best looking, and all were alike of such hardy well knotted forms. The Canadian farmer declared repeatedly and repeatedly, that it was all of no use of talking to him about taking a family, as he had no accommodation for it whatsoever, all he wanted was a single man. When, notwithstanding Mr. Belle continued in his efforts to pass away this family at all hazards, I could bear up with it no longer, and I broke in on his traffic partaking of the coolie trade, interrupting him, viz: "What's all this for, it is an utter impossibility for this man to take in a family, and when we have so many applications from the country for married farm-hands with children, why not correspond, why not select the most advantageous place for this very commendable family, why not allow

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“time to do that much for the poor people.” As soon as the farmer was gone, Mr. Belle reprimanded me in strong terms, and hold in future my tongue, when he had taken immigrants in his hands. I was glad to see them out of his hands, when I had a chance next day, to engage them at a fair salary with a worthy gentleman from the country, who was in the very want of such a family. Mr. Belle handled innumerable cases in this way, and in augmented degree of heartless inconsideration as the number of heads was greater in the family.

The grand occasion for Mr. Belle, is the dinner time. It is enacted by him, that the immigrants shall present themselves at the bar of the office for dinner tickets, and no dinner without the tickets. He sits upon his chair *comme grand seigneur*, as the French call him, challenging every candidate for honours of dinner at his Home; why he is still here, why he is not in a boarding-house or lodgments, why he did not find a situation, must take any thing at all, must leave, can't remain, must make room for large numbers to arrive, and so forth, keeping thereby his voice constantly in the upper notes. To embitter the lectured ones, a few favorites pass entirely unchallenged. Not seldom on this his grand dinner reception, he is treated to some banquets that are very stormy, with a strong odour of truth and none of respect. The donor of the strong wordy banquet is a spotted person, male or female, the screws are put to departure with no further earthly consideration. After these appetizing scenes, the immigrants take their seats at the table, but not in peace yet, for Mr. Belle follows them into the dining room, continuing his unseemly harangue, calling on this one and that one, generally with some more unpleasant remarks; he thinks nothing of it to call them away from the table altogether about some bagatelle, when to judge from his own enormously comfortable locking personality, one is inclined to think, that he enjoys the peace and pleasure of the table very much.

On one of these occasions, Mr. Belle committed an act, that deserves to be recorded, for it is perhaps unique in the annals of an Immigration Agent, dispensing the hospitalities of the Province. On the morning of that day, returned an immigrant to the Home, after having been employed for some weeks in the Eastern Town-

ships; he complained of the wages having been too low, and that he was in search of a more remunerative place. I made him acquainted with the rule, that when once helped to a situation, he had lost title to have meals and lodgings at the Home; I said this principally in demonstration, that such returns were neither liked nor facilitated; it never came in my mind to render it too strict under any circumstances, as far as one meal was concerned, surely not, when to favourites the existence of this rule was not even mentioned.

The immigrant alluded to was a fine young man of Celtic descent, tall and robust, an able farm hand; and I told him all he had to do was, to sit down on one of the benches, and in less than half an hour, he would be taken off. There was great demand for men like him, and almost immediately after, he was engaged at very fair wages. By this time it was not far from dinner. The employer arranged with the young man, where to meet him right after dinner, when I put in the suggestion, not altogether unkind of a jawing, that he might just as well take his man right along with him. The employer's sharp wit made me blush, as he answered me: "Oh! it's not about the dinner, I'll willingly pay you for that, I have some business to attend to yet." When the immigrant went to his dinner with a ticket from me, I instructed him about Mr. Belle, if he should take notice of him, to say, that he was engaged and only staying for one meal at the Home. He was the only one left amongst a number of French immigrants and attracted at once. Presently, I heard Mr. Belle roaring out my name, as if murder had been committed, and hurriedly obeying the summons, he accosted me previously in the yard, crying to me: "What, now, by Nero and Calligula, dare you contravene my positive orders in this flagrant way." The young man had to leave instantly, his plate of soup smoking before him, and Mr. Belle himself chased him out of the Home, thereby causing galling indignation in the breast of every one present.

In fact, Mr. Belle's visits to the Home amount to neither more or less than excited and turbulent flustering and jostling of the immigrants to and fro, with intent to push and drive them from the Home at the fastest speed possible obtainable, when it is done

less in one case than in the other, it is from fear, for Mr. Belle possesses all the attributes of the tyrant.

His haste is something dreadful to contemplate in its consequences upon the fate of families in particular. They have too many mouths, says Mr. Belle, and accordingly, more mouths, the higher pressure he puts on to shove them out of the Home, no matter whereto. Numerous applications from a distance, mutual benefit therefrom were dead letters against an immediate offer of employment on the spot. Dislike or unfitness of the immigrant to the proffered situation, or inferior wages, were of no moment.

I believe it was in the beginning of the month of June last, that the present house-keeper and her nice little daughter, made their first debut at the Home. With them entered upon the scene, a new guardian, from precedents and testimonials, a highly respectable Scotchman. The first acts of the house-keeper were calculated to make a bad impression. The Scotch guardian went unfortunately right away on a spree, wherewith he was helped on by the house-keeper, she sharing his cups. His discharge followed, and his successor was a young French Canadian, a good hearted fellow, modest, polite and willing. Mischeif would have it, that he soon took to drinking too, and likewise in companionship with the house-keeper. The friendship had become so thick between them, she lent him the money to fasten him to the ruinous passion. In a certain epoch of sixteen days, during the absence of Mr. Belle at the seaside, she had advanced sixteen dollars to the unfortunate François. Seeing him becoming fast incapacitated for his business, and he also getting somewhat cross to her and less obedient to her behests, she turned informer on him, with the smart insinuation, the guardianship might be dispensed with altogether, and its salary, at one dollar per day, divided between her and me. Instead of admonishing the treacherous house-keeper severely, Mr. Belle only evinced the greatest solicitude, for seeing the money she had advanced returned to her, and in his great care to secure this, he did not mind to tell little stories to poor François.

The present house-keeper's new broomship was indeed of very short duration. Under her management things went fast

from bad to worse. Dirt and filth accumulated and became more offensive; the vermin of all kinds multiplied to terrible numbers, fit to do battle against all comers. The closets had become so incommodious, that it was generally in a state of unapproachable beastiality, a cabinet of horrors, the gallery and the yard all over had to suffer for it. And to add to the variety of flavours, she had become fowl fancier, and kept about a half hundred chickens running during the day in the yard, and amongst the emigrants and their boxes, and at night, roosting next door to them.

Having had a huckster stall at home, and being of a somewhat commercial and speculative turn of mind, she also opened an Immigrants' Laundry, where washing is done for money only, and at the highest rates going. Wood and soap figures under immigration expenses, and therefore does not figure in her calculations, which makes it a profitable little business. Her enterprising mind is not only confined to this, there are more ways than one to turn a penny out of the immigrant and his home, and she cultivates all the chances. But there never was a person who could undertake so many things and attend well to all of them, one or the other must be neglected, and the house-keeper of the Home is no exception to the rule. The business proper of the Home became sadly and shamefully neglected. The bath-room was permitted to turn into a puddle of mud. Sometimes I had a hundred and more immigrants at the Home; they clamoured for soap and towels; when I went to the house-keeper, demanding these articles of necessity from her, I was told she had neither the one nor the other to give me, had been occupied to much otherwise. At the same time I found her daughter at the wash-tub, herself engaged with ironing, both busy with the private laundry. The soap was of course required for this, and the time, that should have been devoted to keep the linen of the Home in order. I was obliged to return to the immigrants, and confess to my own shame and that of the Home, that I could not procure either soap or towels. Think of the straw-ticks and bolsters only changed twice during the whole season, some only once. Never did I show the immigrant to his dirty and wretched lair, without feeling ashamed. It occurred that immigrants were returned to the Home by employers, for having been found covered with vermin.

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One young man, now in a very respectable position here, showed me his bed one morning, after a sleepless night, and the sight of insect life was something terrifying. If the house-keeper is thoroughly unfit to keep a Home, she is equally unfit as cook, for of cooking she knows no more than a dancing bear about composing a piece of music. And amongst all persons that ever attempted cooking, it would be a hard thing to match her for uncleanness and dirty handling of the victuals; a vessel just emptied of night-soil, comes very handy to her to use as a receptacle of peeled potatoes. Many immigrants have told me, that they dare not think of her dirty ways during meal time, or they must leave the table at the double quick. Of cleanliness and anything that belongs to it, she is totally ignorant and unconcerned, indeed as much *sancta simplicitas* as a quadruped, which in his inner bodily organisations resembles most the biped.

Nevertheless it was an undeniable fact that the dirty cook, the ignorant cook, who can neither read nor write, had grown into mighty power. She dispensed the good things of the Home, as if they did come from herself and she paid for it; if anybody incurred her displeasure, she ordered the person out of the Home forthwith. I will give one of the many incidents of this kind.

We had in the Home a little French lady with her husband and one child, she had a little tongue of her own, and she ventured to give a little of her opinion about her cookship. Directly the cook told her that she must leave the Home. But the little lady had also a little mind of her own, and would not pay the least attention to the cook's authority. On the Monday morning following, the little lady and her husband entered upon their first day's work in Montreal, she in a millinery establishment, and he in a paintshop. The young couple were known to be very poor, yet very neat and respectably dressed. Monday noon, only the little lady called for the dinner ticket, and giving her name, she was right away impressed by Mr. Belle:—"You have work, you must leave the Home and go in lodgings forthwith." This made it of course quite evident that Mr. Belle was acting upon the cook's spiteful orders. On the succeeding Wednesday, the husband called for the dinner ticket; no sooner did he mention his

name, than Mr. Belle cried out: "You have employment, that must be your last dinner here, I have given warning to your wife before, that you can't stay longer." The man retorted: "I am just as poor to-day as when I came to the Home, all I possess in God's world is thirteen cents, and we'll not be paid till next Saturday eve', but if it affords you any pleasure to put us out of doors before, well then please yourself, I defy you."

This did not shut up Mr. Belle effectually. Nothing daunted, time and again I directed the attention of Mr. Belle to the laziness, neglect and imbecility of the house-keeper, yet with over and again the same result; he found excuses for all the house-keeper's and her daughter's doings, and threw out some hints, that it was better not to be meddling.

However these and many other strange little things became a deal more comprehensible to me, when, one lovely afternoon, I stumbled in a passage upon Mr. Belle and the house-keeper's nice little daughter, she playing in charming innocence about him, admiring what is of the biggest admiration on Mr. Belle, and remembering me strikingly of a scene of yore between Peggy and the Bar-keeper, when she soft-soaped him for a glass of whiskey with the flattering Blarney: "You always remember me of my old Boss in Ireland, he was just such a good looking man as you, and like him, you have such a handsome belly sticking out." This brought down the Bar-keeper with a smile, Peggy was successful, and, as I have every reason to believe, so was the house-keeper's nice little daughter in her way.

Sensual cupidity is strong with Mr. Belle, and of passion beyond his control. Headed by it, he sets to work with entire recklessness, towards obtaining his vile ends. I know him to have exposed himself in brazen courtship to the open ridicule and spicy wits of all the immigrants in the Home; ill-placed levities, when the ravenous wolf is preying on their wives and daughters, this time in the most dangerous disguise of shepherd himself and immigrants' protector. Merely a few cases, but they are as many as good looking women and good looking girls came within the pale of the Home.

There arrived at the Home from the land of Belgium, a fine young married couple without children. Both good looking, the woman smart and active, with the vivacious eye, described by Heine "like a polished dagger half-drawn from the scabbard." Mr. Belle commenced with his ordinary snare, that he was in want of this couple for service in his own house, and therefore they could not be placed otherwise. Mr. Belle prompted his designs upon this woman in blind disregard of decorum. The little god is known to be a trickster. One of the children hurried down to communicate to the other immigrants, that Mr. Belle was running after this woman up-stairs, trying to hug and kiss her. It became all the rage of conversation in every corner of the Home. The husband was of course not long before getting acquainted with matters, and took them seriously enough, with right particular indignation against the Immigration Agent. He went straight to Mr. Belle in the Crown Lands Office, and told him, that he had not come all the way from Belgium to be duped and disgraced in this way. Soon after, man and wife disappeared from the Home without employment, and took up rooms for themselves.

Mr. Belle had also a longing eye for the lovely and charming daughters of sunny France. The Home was graced by the arrival of a very respectable looking French couple, man and wife, with one child. The French lady, for such she is in the right sense of the word, no matter how modestly dressed, no matter how poor, made herself soon respected all over the Home, by her silent finely measured comportment, her industrious habits, and her tender affections for husband and child. The husband understands no trade, and it is always more difficult to find places for this class of immigrants. In the interim, looking out for a situation, Mr. Belle employed him in his Crown Lands Office; subsequently he succeeded in getting into another temporary employment, that necessitated his absence from the city for some time. Mr. Belle kindly proposed to the husband in consideration of his needy circumstances, that he might leave his wife at the Home till his return, yea, that in case she should meanwhile want a little money, he would advance it to her. Of all this I was right glad, for the French lady was such an excellent and willing hand to render assistance in the Home. But it was only a few days

after the husband's departure when his wife communicated to me much to my surprise and chagrin, that she was going to leave the Home that day, and take up her quarters with another French family, which I did know to be likewise poor. I called her attention to this, and tried in every way to persuade her for remaining, all of no use what I said, her mind was determinedly made up for leaving the Home instantly, knowing she had no means, I thought her proceedings very strange, but could not get at the cause of it at the time. When the husband returned, he solved me the riddle. As soon as he had left, Mr. Belle commenced to make frequent visits to his wife, when she was alone in her bedroom up stairs, and by his actions disclosed his base plans, and this is why she had fled.

The full particulars and details of these cases have peculiarities partaking still more of the revolting outrages, but I think quite enough has been said on this subject.

As before said, the immigration this year in general has been very large, and to Montreal in particular; I don't believe the City was ever before visited by so many immigrants with intention to settle about here. My task was a very laborious one; I believe I did all I could for the immigrants as far as my harassed and limited position permitted; I was generally occupied with them from five in the morning till ten at night, and since I had latterly undone the former order by Mr. Belle, and receive the immigrants at all hours in the night, this resting time I could not count more mine. However this would all have come easy enough to me by way of my liking to attend to immigration affairs, but the malversion of the immigration field, on the part of Mr. Belle, with a hunting ground for the gratification of mean passions, made everything uphill work, engendered the discouraging conviction that no good did come after all from any amount of labour of mine, that for sake of a livelihood, I was but a miserable instrument in the criminally and farcical humbug of Mr. Belle's immigration agency. For some time past, my official respect due Mr. Belle had become very thinly skinned; I had commenced to back out in certain heartless cases of rendering the unquestioning obedience and unscrupulous servility demanded by Mr. Belle of his subordinates, and within did gnaw the worm.

A small affair in itself, a key, opened the hostilities, which led to a pitched battle between the opposing forces, namely, the house-keeper and her nice little daughter, with their good lance, the chivalrous and formidable colonel himself, on one side, and my lonely self on the other.

I had at last succeeded to get a lock fixed to a little gate, by which the house-keeper did a good deal of her Sunday traffic in the laundry and other business. It is of course needless to say, that the lock was an irksome sight to the cook, and the least she could do was to try to possess herself of the key to it. Therefore when I demanded the key of the locksmith, almost immediately when he was done, he was ignorant of its whereabouts. I went to ask in the kitchen for this key, when first a wrong one was handed to me by Mamselle; forthwith detecting this, I now signified my determination, that the key I shall and must have. Whereupon the cook threw me down the right key with a *S..... Tonnère* "there it is." She is a great swearer and since her elevated position, she made use of *hersacré* epithets in heightened degree and increased frequency. However I gave her unmistakably to understand, that I cared nothing for any amount of her curses, that it was high time she would mend her dirty ways, if accessible to any improvement at all. That decent immigrants complained of her being loathsome, that her laziness and inattention to business proper had become of a very reprehensible character, when as it lately happened on the arrival of four English immigrants, with a sick lady amongst them, early on a Sunday morning, after a protracted and fatiguing night's journey from Quebec, that, after vainly waiting for over an hour and-a-half to break a long fast, they were compelled, the sickly lady becoming exhausted, to search up a hotel for breakfast, from where they never returned to the Home; that such occurrences were shameful and it was altogether a disgraceful state of affairs. Truth is a terrible scourge, and she nearly burst with rage under its lashes. She called after me: "there is one good thing, if I should have to leave, you'll have to leave long before me."

On that day Mr. Belle put in his appearance at the Home at an unusual time, much earlier than he is accustomed; I suppose the

intelligence of my forcible remarks was carried to him by the love winged dove. And not as it was his regular habit, to first step into the office, for immediately he rushed past it and right into the kitchen, from where he issued shortly again to the grand attack on the over officious officer in the bureau. He marched silently up towards me with a heavy sinister thunder cloud on his brow, behind his back the cook, with the killingly snake like glance in her eye, also an immigrant, to bear witness of what I had said before, as I suggested.

Taking in my position with a glance, and seeing victory an impossibility, yet defeat no disgrace—I rushed at once to the offensive, by opening first with heavy artillery: “What shall this man here witness? nonsense. It will afford me but pleasure to repeat to this villanous women, the very words I made use of in the kitchen against her, and I repeated it word by word, with stinging additions, and denounced her money making and black mailing proclivities in unmeasured terms. Then putting lance against the formidable Colonel himself, I dashed at him: “you, “you, I must compliment, that you preside over the most wretched, filthy, lousy institution of its kind, most unworthy of its “name, in all christendom.” His attempted effrontery of shielding and defending the bare laid malfeasances of such grave nature, fell blunt against the minuteness of my charges. My heavy artillery roared under the violent volcanic eruptions of Billingsgate lava, on the part of the Cook. Mr. Belle knowing me invulnerable on points of duty, what I had challenged him, now put in his mortal blows of arbitrary power, and delivered the *coup de grâce* to me, by giving out a new pronounciament as dictator, and proceeding to sentence against me:—

His first sentence against me was, that he forbade me of taking another loaf of bread, or occasionally a piece of raw meat, or any thing else from the provisions furnished to the Home, which I was entitled to, for the reason, when I united with my clerkship the function of guardian, it had been stipulated by Mr. Belle that I should take dinner at the Home at each time, as my presence in the office was most indispensably required about dinner time. It was perfectly

understood that dinner furnished to me by the Home to be one of the perquisites of my guardianship. Later on, Mr. Belle pressed upon me that I should take up my quarters altogether at the Home, and bring my family there. When my wife cooked in the Home I dined of course with her, and in exchange of the stipulated dinner from the Home, I took a loaf of bread, and at intervals a piece of raw meat from the Home's provisions, of course with perfect openness, as I would order the butcher now and then to bring me a separate piece of meat.

However I bowed submission to this sentence, as it followed so natural upon the steps of a man who had quarelled with the cook, and as it completed my perfect independence in every respect.

His second sentence was, that I must bridle in my unsugar-coated language to the housekeeper, for she being a lady, he would not permit, in his presence, a second time, the use of my disrespectful terms towards her.

To this sentence I demurred, on the ground that there was not the first sign of a lady about the cook, that she was wanting in the—in my eyes—indispensable qualification to a ladyship, that is, she being generally unwashed, and without this adornment there was no lady for me; I should therefore persist in treating her to her deserts, without gloves and without any ceremony. Whereupon Mr. Belle warned me, that my repeated offence and disregard in this direction would bring on my dismissal. This subterfuge of tyrannical disposition had lost its intended intimidating powers, and I continued in all frankness of expression.

The cook had by this time brought into play women's most dangerous weapons—tears—though that her's were without the waiting pearls, did not mar the effect. Mr. Belle now promulgated his pronouncement to the effect:

Ignoring altogether his former ordiuances on the occasion of investing me also with the guardianship by increased salary, wherefore he made it obligatory on me, to look after every thing

appertaining to the Home, and assume responsibility thereof, in total ignorance of all this he proceeded to declare :

That I had become meddlesome, that is meddling with things that were not of my concern, my sphere of action should be strictly confined within the office, and be solely confined to its direct operations, anything outside of this was none of my business ; the management of everything else about the Home, the kitchen and all other arrangements did exclusively belong to the house-keeper and cook in one person, who stood above all interference on my part, and was perfectly independent of me in all her doings, of course also in her washing business for immigrants on payment, which was now formally sanctioned, contrary to a former censure.

I could not receive any complaints whatsoever of immigrants, but shall inform them at once, that one and all complaints must be brought directly before Mr. Belle.

All of which is humbug with a vengeance ; stone for bread, insult for redress, who know it otherwise, that ever stayed at the Home and complained ?

Reflecting upon my financial position, and looking at the near end of the immigration season, this was already the 22nd October, I listened to prudence, made the best move to a bad game, and capitulated to the time of the dishonorable conditions, with the only remark to Mr. Belle : " When it is manly to fight, it is said, ' to be not less manly, to acknowledge to a thorough defeat, " and I do acknowledge to have been most thoroughly licked to " day by the cook, but please, don't confound causes."

I thought the affray was now over, I believe so did Mr. Belle. Meanwhile some immigrants and other persons had crowded into the office, and it was high time to pay some attention to them. Mr. Belle and myself faced about to attend to business proper, and did actually enter upon it. The cook was still lingering on in the office, enjoying her triumph amazingly. The thought just crossed me, that it was in bad taste, and very ungentlemanly demeanour on the part of Mr. Belle, for not telling the cook, as

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soft as he pleased, she might now retire. A movement in my eye expressive of their thoughts, was perhaps understood by Mr. Belle, who gave a momental turn with the upper body, but at the instant the cook stepped forward, and placing her hand most tenderly upon Mr. Belle's hand, she sang to him in her sweetest notes: "I have one more prayer to direct to you, Mr. Belle, if you'll please to tell this man—meaning of course me—that he'll not set his foot any more in the kitchen, under no pretext whatsoever, he is also in the habit of coming in the kitchen to look at the clock, I don't wish to have this any more either."

So far I had looked upon the tender scene, in sight of the immigrants, with a smile, it was too despicable to madden, but when she added in continuation:—

"His wife may still come in the kitchen to do her cooking, so far she has been quiet enough,"—then, here interrupting, I jumped once more on my feet, and cried to her:—"What you dare even to insinuate here, that my honest wife should be in any way dependent on your huckstering graces, you low, mean, dirty wretch, you miserable sucker of immigrants," it was at this moment that Mr. Belle also sprang to his feet, most likely assisted by the poignancy of my last sentence, and bellowed out to me: You are discharged, I order you out of the office at once, and with just a "very well," I stepped out, and into my private apartment. It was an ill recompense for my zealous devotion to immigration, to which, I believe, many will testify, but I was consoled and relieved by the conscientiousness of having done my duty, and of parting with the bad company of the hard couple.

A few days afterwards Mr. Belle committed the unpardonable weakness of saying to me: "Are you ready for leaving the Home on to-morrow, if you don't I shall close the Home to-morrow morning, for the house-keeper told me she would not stay another day, if you remain an hour longer;" as if the house-keeper's pleasure was anything to immigration, or to me, or as if I had not long forgone to believe in his ghost, and other silly stories.

During the latterly described battle I challenged Mr. Belle to tell me of one single neglect of duty, or wherein I had been short in attention to the immigrants, and herewith I repeat him this challenge.

I feel constrained to state, that in all relating to business connection, Mr. Belle has treated me with consideration, and pocketed an occasional rub from me with more grace, than he would from any of his subordinates, and he has given me no cause for private personal malice. I am right glad of this, and can firmly assert, that I have not written here from any private personal nature, but having always warmly espoused the cause of immigration and of the immigrant, I have become still more its ardent defender, as eyewitness, and many long and weary days of the pains and sufferings inflicted on the poor stranger of an immigrant, from motives so base and detestable as recounted here.

In this sense I throw down the gauntlet to Colonel C. E. Belle, Crown Lands and Immigration Agent, in defence of the maltreated immigrant and suffering immigration in particular, and of humanity in general, and give him my humble name.

H. MULLER.

PAPER C.,
C. A. L.

LETTER OF H. PAROTTE.

Montreal, December, 1872.

SIR,

It is not a complaint I wish to draw up, I only desire that my note *should remain a dead letter*. I do not wish my name to appear in the evidence. I have already made you acquainted with certain facts personal to myself, which, if renewed, would lead to a chain of disagreeable circumstances. I arrived in Canada with my family on the 6th June last. I was the bearer of a particular letter specially recommending me to you; you had the kindness to countersign this letter, and to address it to Mr. Belle, Emigration Agent, at Montreal. A most gracious welcome was given to me by this gentleman. He also extended to my family great marks of interest, (even too much interest.) I could

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not find employment through the medium of the agency. I was reduced to a low condition. Having found a transient occupation necessitating my departure from Montreal, my wife not being able to accompany me, I left her at the Emigration Home, until I could remit the necessary funds to place her in a boarding house. It was at least upon these conditions that Mr. Belle offered to allow her to remain at the Emigration Home, furthermore she was employed assisting at the house work. I went away relying on the loyalty and the morality of an officer of the Province. I had the folly to believe that the terrible condition to which an honorable expatriated family were reduced, would be a sufficient safeguard to command respect; nothing of the kind. I had hardly gone away until my wife was beset with insulting offers from the agent above named. She was compelled to leave the house without bread, without resource, and I might say, without a home, and she only informed me of this upon my return. It is probable that the same unpleasantness did not occur to myself alone. You will understand Sir, that for emigration to prosper and continue, it is essential that emigrants personally should be respected as well as their families, and the chief agents are the first who ought to conform to the courteous laws of hospitality. We suffer enough of privation through removal from our country, the climate and the mortification accompanying us, without having again to suffer injury from those who hold us at their mercy. What a difference between the open and sympathetic welcome given to us at Quebec, and the crafty one, marked with interest, given to us at Montreal. Nothing was alike, not even the Emigrants' Home. The former resembled the lower yard (*basse cour*.) of that at Levis. I beg that you will pardon me Sir, for the length of my remarks; and to be pleased to accept an assurance of my respect, having a firm conviction that you will remedy this state of affairs.

I am,

Your Servant,

H. PAROTTE.

MARKET HOTEL,
99 Mountain Street,
Montreal.

LETTER OF GUSTAVE VANCASTER.

EXHIBIT D.

Montreal, 9th December, 1872.

SIR,

In justice to the cause of emigration, I wish to inform you that I was very much ill treated during my sojourn at the Emigration Home, in the person of my wife, by the agent, Mr. Belle, who persisted in making to her the dishonest proposition to become his mistress.

The said agent, Mr. Belle, persisted to such an extent in his shameful proposals, that I was obliged to flee during the night to escape his vile persecution.

Imagine, Sir, an agent who takes advantage of his influence towards poor emigrants, threatening to turn us out without place or without money.

I beg to say to you in conclusion, that the agent did nothing else but do me injury, and if the Chief of Police had not given me employment in the force, I do not know what would have become of us.

Your devoted Servant,

G. VANCASTER, *Policeman,*
Montreal.

G

Montreal, 9th December, 1872.

S. LESAGE, ESQUIRE,

Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture and Public Works.

SIR,

I suppose you have in your possession my pamphlet accompanied by my letter of the 7th instant, and as promised therewith, please receive hereby enclosed, two letters addressed to you: one from H. Parotte, (French,) and the other from G. Vancaster, (Belgian,) in support of some of my important statements against Mr. Belle. Mr. Barnard is acquainted with G. Vancaster, it is the same

who passed a few days with Mr. Deschambeault, Varennes. Vancaster desires very much to have the honour of an interview with Mr. Barnard; if he had known where to make him out, he would have presented to him his complaints ere this. What I have written is really not much to what Mr. Barnard will hear on occasion of interview of Vancaster. The same manifold additions will be the result of test of all else I have said, as being more a few samples of the long list of its species.

With further documents I'll furnish you in my next *this week* with testimonials to my own stewardship, and I beg the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

H. MULLER.

E

Montreal, 7th December, 1872.

S. LESAGE, ESQUIRE,

Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture and Public Works.

SIR,

At last, after long delay, 'partly caused by illness of mine, I have the honour, of presenting you here enclosed my treatise on :

"The Immigrants' Home, 151 St. Antoine Street, under the administration of C. E. Belle, Immigration Agent," with illustration of events upon which Mr. Belle inflicted my abrupt dismissal.

Its contents are but the truth, it's hard but true, that all I have said is a mere breaking in of the crust, the bulk of iniquities within is yet untold.

I am in right full earnest, and am quite ready to proceed to proofs.

Being greatly concerned that you should hear from me, I make haste to despatch the Treatise (or Pamphlet) a head of certain certificates in support of some of my more important state-

ments, which I will not fail to send you after on next Monday evening, with other reports. Ever remaining,

Most respectfully,
Your obedient Servant,

H. MULLER.

F

Montreal, 16th December, 1872.

S. LESAGE, ESQUIRE,
Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture and Public Works,
Quebec.

SIR,

I beg to give you here enclosed statement of my settlement with Mr. Belle, as I accepted it some weeks ago under the necessity of the circumstances, and according to which he paid me the sum of \$69.25. I confess when I submitted to this settlement, my hope in your kindness and my trust in your urbanity, had something to do with it; that you will make right yet, where I have been wronged, upon and also herewith copy of memorandum on contingent expenses, having given matters due consideration. Really I did not deserve to be thrown out so abrupt coldly in the cold arms of winter.

This makes my fourth letter to you, one with my treatise of the 7th, the next with two letters of immigrants, of the 9th, and two of this date.

I will yet furnish you with a document concerning my behaviour as employee in the immigration office.

If required, many more condemning depositions of Mr. Belle's malfasances, indeed in overwhelming numbers, can be brought home.

Believe me, Sir,

Most respectfully,

Your obedient Servant,

H. MULLER.

RE BELLE.

MEMORANDUM OF THE ADVOCATES FOR THE
DEFENCE.

• Before entering upon the subject, we would call to mind the cruel and unjust position of our client before the investigation which has just taken place.

The Press worked underhand, had been prepared in advance, and waited only for a pretext to pounce upon the prey pointed out to it. At the same time the public mind vividly excited by vague rumours, but artfully coloured and distributed with profusion, was predisposed to accept as true the most odious revelations.

Already the mine was prepared; it only required to be exploded. They naturally relied upon the dark deed they had machinated with so much artifice and so much perseverance. And the victim they had proposed to immolate, lived without fear and completely ignorant of danger.

At last our client was apprised, that he had been accused, and was charged with very dark and heinous crimes. How many prosecutors had he? What were the nature of the charges brought against him? He made search to discover, but only really knew on the day he was allowed to open the defence before the commission of enquiry.

Three men then revealed themselves, Hans Muller, Henri Parotte, and Gustave Joseph Vancaster.

The first named singing his praise and throwing down the glove to his enemy, not on the battle-field as did the heroes of Homer, but in the seclusion of his chamber he gave birth to a monstrous treaty in which was concentrated all the malice, all the hate, all the revenge and filth with which his heart was overflowing. *As loquitur ex abundantia cordis.* This filthy treaty was forwarded to the department of Agriculture and Public Works, where it, no doubt, produced an effect passably disagreeable. But

the brave and honest Muller not believing himself strong enough to do battle singly with the gigantic emigration agent, sought for allies and found them. *El labo y la vulpeza ambas Son de una consija*. Parotte and Vancaster came to his aid, one sending his wife, and the other his concubine to the rescue.

Muller's treaty and the letters of Parotte and Vancaster, not producing the brilliant result desired, other means were adapted to attain an end which had been proposed. We need not make known these means; no one is to-day ignorant of them. It was furthermore a worthy corollary to the actions of the three individuals we have just named.

The interposition of the fourth person who should to day blush for some of his acquaintances, had all the effect which we desired. The press commenced to howl in every tone, the public stunned and *amenté* forming an opinion without any knowledge of the facts, accepted all kinds of insinuations for realities, launched into the excitement, and the noise and confusion that followed is indistinguishable.

The Honorable Commissioner at the head of the emigration department had no doubt accepted the accusation of Muller, Parotte and Vancaster, at their real value, seeing that he did not even communicate them to our client, but the clamor of a misled people forcibly roused him from his inaction. Our client demanded an investigation, and this investigation was granted to him. The Government with the evident intention to enlighten public opinion, already perverted and prejudiced from the information of a press, itself misled by appearances, cunningly invented and exploited, made of a subject purely administrative and private, a real public trial. We thank them to-day, because the publicity given to this investigation has rendered the exoneration more certain and more complete.

We will now enter upon the subject beginning at the source of all this dirty business.

The author of this famous treaty, of whom we have already spoken, born we know not where, but several cities claim the

honor of his birth. As to the rest, all we have an interest in knowing, is; 1st, that Hans Muller made his entry into the Emigration Home during the beginning of the month of April, 1872, and that he was chased from it on the 22nd October, of the same year. While he remained in the Home, he found every thing correct, only during his last days, he had some difficulty with the cook who he falsely accused of all species of crime, and he was turned out. On leaving he said to Dr. de Borden, "I leave, but many others will also leave." If Hans Muller had not quarrelled with the cook of the Emigration Home, it is more than probable his famous treaty would never have been written, and would have never seen day light, but he did quarrel and from this shock was born this epistle which of its kind shall never be equalled. It goes to prove that after his departure from the Emigration Home, Hans Muller saw every thing in blackened colours. He, who had given him employment, and means to gain a livelihood was no more to him than a vulgar bandit; and the Home in which he had lived appeared to his diseased imagination in an entirely new condition. Horror! How did he live in a place so dirty, and eat such impure food at so disgusting a table, how did he resist the myriads of lice spontaneously, quickened into life and multiplying in the infected locality, and in fact how did he breathe the nauseous emanations that continually supplanted the oxygen and azote of the free and pure atmosphere. The explanation given by him of his long resignation to his martyrdom is a little ingenious. He was devoted he says to immigration, he had not the mind, and prudence counselled him not to complain. At last he made complaint, and we now know of what he complains *de omnibus rebus et de quibusdam aliis*.

Whoever will impartially read Muller's treaty, also the documents produced during the enquiry, can easily become convinced that Muller's motives were far from being as disinterested as he pretends. Hate and vengeance appears in every part of this infamous libel.

The proof also unveils the mental condition, and the bad intentions of Muller. When leaving the Emigration Home, he said to Doctor de Borden, "I leave, but many others will leave." Be-

fore Dr. Picault, forgetting himself, he cried out: "Oh, Mr. Belle, I will have him dismissed, and I will be revenged."

Upon the bad intentions of Muller, there cannot be the slightest doubt.

Let us see how this German, who had sworn the *vendetta*, undertook to kill his adversary. Did he provoke him to single combat? Did he attack him to his face? No!—He hatched in darkness a dangerous conspiracy, and he tried to ruin him by calmly and per-*ary*. He was but too well assisted in his work, but thank God, truth triumphed over falsehood, and to-day the author of this diabolical plot, and all his worthy associates, are well known for what they are. Nearly everybody was deceived, but now we have light shewing into its depths, this dark abyss of infamy.

We spoke of a conspiracy and we did not exaggerate.

It is in proof that Muller, Parotte and Vaneaster acted in concert. The first named sent his famous treaty to Mr. Lesage on the 7th of December, 1872, and on the 9th of the same month he sent to the same person, in one of his own letters, the letters of Parotte and Vaneaster. Vaneaster's letter is dated 9th December, and Parotte's does not bear any precise date, but it is clear that both letters were handed over to Muller to be, by him, transmitted to the department.

Vaneaster denies that he was in communication with Muller when he wrote to Mr. Lesage. Let us see how he gets out of the affair upon this head. We quote verbatim this portion of his evidence.

"It was on the ninth of December, *he says*, that I sent my letter of complaint to Mr. Lesage. I made this complaint of my own free will, without having been solicited by anybody. Between the time of my leaving the Emigration Home, and the day on which I wrote the letter to Mr. Lesage, I did not communicate my business upon this subject to anybody. When my wife made me acquainted with the affair, we decided of common assent to write to Mr. Lesage. Before however writing to Mr. Lesage, we, my wife and myself, consulted together."

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Further on he says :

"It was myself who wrote the letter containing my complaints, and sent by me to the Government. The letter was addressed to Mr. Lesage. Before sending this letter, I did not communicate it to any person. I did not communicate to any person before sending my letter, that it was my intention to make complaint.

I had Mr. Lesage's address at Quebec. I posted this letter myself. I did not give it to Mr. Muller, for him, to transmit for me, to the Government. I was not in any way informed of the fact, that Muller and Parotte were to write at the same time I did to the Government. Nor can I in any way explain how the three complaints were sent at the same time to the Government, seeing that I was not in communication with the others, when I wrote to the Government. I swear positively that when I sent my complaint to the Government, I was not in communication with any one.

Question :—How does it occur, if you were not then in communication with Muller and Parotte, and if you, yourself put your letter in the Post without speaking to the two others, that your letter and that of Parotte reached the department in a letter written and sent by Hans Muller to Mr. Lesage ?

Answer :—It is a fact of which I am ignorant. It may be within my wife's knowledge, but not mine.

Is it possible for one to perjure himself with more effrontery.

After having given his letter of complaint to Muller, and transmitted by him to Mr. Lesage, Vancaster made, conjointly with his wife, an affidavit of grievances against our client. This affidavit is written throughout by Muller, who extends his politeness so far as to go and look for a magistrate to take the oath of the Vancaster's at their own home. The affidavit which is much more ample and much more precise than Vancaster's letter to Mr. Lesage, was placed in the hands of Muller, with full liberty to use it. We may suppose what usage Muller made of this affidavit

He took good care to send it to the department. There is no doubt but that it was with this document and others of a like kind, he excited the press and public opinion.

Felicia Chataignier, wife of Monier, also admits that her husband made a complaint in writing, that he did not send it to any body, but remitted it to Mr. Muller.

Thus the Moniers also provided Muller with the means to work in an underhand manner to the injury of our client, and it is only just to mention the part they played in this conspiracy.

Vancaster is forced to admit that meetings were held against our client. Isidore Perrot was the chairman at these meetings, and Frederick Boncorps and Ledieu were the secretaries.

Vancaster, his concubine, and Muller, on the very day that Vancaster went with Lafon to the office of our client, were all three at Pelzer's, where they had coffee served to them by Madame Pelzer. Why did they all three find themselves that day at Pelzer's? We do not know. In the meantime we knew from whence they came and where they went. We also know what they said upon that occasion. Madame Pelzer tells us, certainly without understanding the meaning or value of her information, that three persons came from Mr. Barnard's and went to our client Mr. Belle. The woman Vancaster said to her husband that he need work no more, because he would receive nine dollars a week without doing anything. This same woman, when in the office of our client with Vancaster and Lafon, hearing a noise in the adjoining room, all at once cried out, "they are fighting," thus revealing an anterior knowledge of what was then transpiring.

In fact three individuals, Perrot, Boncorps and Matchgeels, sought Deplechin, one of the witnesses for the defence, who had already made a deposition against Vancaster before the Police Committee, and the last named, in the presence of the other two, and before Mr. and Madame Pelzer, offered Desplechin the sum of one hundred dollars, to prevent him from giving evidence upon the facts he had already related.

All these facts appear in the depositions taken at the investigation and grouped together, leave no doubt as to the existence of a conspiracy, started against our client. More than this. This analysis permits us to indicate the principal conspirators, and to trace out all the ramifications of the conspiracy.

It will for the present suffice to succinctly and hastily go through all the principal evidence, at the same time making the necessary comparisons between the depositions.

Firstly we would like to dispose of a question which caused a great deal of noise. We wish to speak of the Emigration Home, of its administration, its appearance, of its state of cleanliness, of the food given to the emigrants, and of the sleeping accommodation for emigrants, &c., &c.

Muller and the other witnesses for the prosecution came out in great haste against the Emigration Home, and also against our client, and against the cook of the home.

We will not go into any detail upon this question, because the proof made upon it is so clear and so strong, that it cannot be attacked. We are holden to destroy the accusations relating to the Emigration Home and its administration or government, and we believe we have perfectly succeeded in this point as upon all the others. We would have been exceedingly grieved if we had not succeeded in dissipating the prejudices circulated by Muller and his acolytes against the Home, because the Honorable Commissioner of Agriculture and Public Works stated in his last report to the Parliament of this Province that our client conducted his agency with perfect order, and a great deal of economy.

We will therefore here occupy ourselves with that portion of the evidence relating to the personal acts with which our client is reproached.

Let us examine in the first instance the evidence of Hans Muller.

Muller is, as we have already seen, the prime mover of the conspiracy. It is around him that all the other characters revolve

like planets round the sun. He is the grand spring that communicates motion and life to all the machinery.

Muller's deposition is but a repetition of his grand treaty. It is charged with hate and vengeance, and it breathes the same fulsomeness. If Muller had been an honest man..... We might compare him with the *Chevalier de la Manche*, the immortal Don Quixotte, but Muller, with all the vanity of Don Quixotte, has not the same character, and the comparison would be unjust to the hero of the wind-mills.

Muller's attacks against the character of Madame Barrette's daughter are odious and uncorroborated by anybody. The remainder of his attacks are but insinuations, and do not go as far as to articulate any positive fact that can be imputed to our client. We leave to Muller the melancholy honor of having attempted to bring to disgrace a person against whom no one witness had a word to say.

Two women, says Muller, came together to the office, where they remained with Mr. Belle, who, playfully placed his hands on the breast of one of them. He does not indicate them, not having the entry book in which he could have found their names. In cross-examination the entry book is presented to him, and he gave the names of the two women, who, he says, are two sisters-in-law. He did not perceive that the husbands of these two women did not bear the same name. These women did not make any complaint, nor were they called by Muller to corroborate his evidence

Muller gives the name of another woman, who, according to him, ought to have been insulted in the same manner, and who he ought to have sent to Quebec with Madamé Ledet. Well then! the name of Léon Camille given to her by him is the name of a man.

This is sufficient; let us pass to Parotte. The nature of Madame Parotte's complaint is indiscernible. We expected a great deal more from her husband's letter.

Mr. Parotte confidentially disclosing his affliction in a letter sent to Mr. Lesage by Muller, charges our client with being wanting in *loyalty and morality*, and further states that his wife was beset with insulting propositions. Finally he adds, always confidentially, that it was likely that the same annoyance did not occur only to him. This letter contains a great many words, many malevolent insinuations and many philosophical reflexions. Instead of approaching his subject frankly, and stating purely and simply that which he has to say, Mr. Parotte twists his ideas, and produces a philosophical and sentimental nonsense, that certainly does him little honour.

Madame Parotte does not go as far in her evidence as her husband, and it is evident she would have been silent, had she been left alone.

Parotte and his wife arrived at Montreal the 8th January, 1872. The husband left the Home to go on survey at the north of Montreal, and returned the 5th August.

Madame Parotte pretends that she wrote to her husband, informing him that she had left the Emigration Home because of Mr. Belle our client. The husband in his letter of complaint to the department says that it was upon his return he ascertained all this, that is to say the insults offered to his wife.

However, between the 5th August, and the 9th December, Parotte and his wife remained silent (*cors*) and did not indite the slightest complaint. Besides Parotte did not even try to again see our client. Four months silent what must we think of that. And at the end of these four months, Parotte complains but only through the intervention of Muller. This explains itself well enough by the interposition of Muller who wanted to clear his own character and blacken that of our client.

After all, the evidence of Madame Parotte does not amount to much. She states expressly that Mr. Belle did not at any time make her any indecent proposal, and that he never laid his hand upon her. *Only she believed that he wished to make love to her*, and for this reason she left the Home. At the beginning she took

these attentions for acts of politeness, but later she thought he had designs against her honor. Our client begged of her, she says, to go to his office in St. Jacques Street, but she would not go. She, however went to his office on errands and had no reason to repent of it. At last, our client told her one day, she was escaping from him as usual, that he wished simply to speak to her, and had not the slightest intention of taking her by force. Here we have in substance an exposure of all the wrongs with which Madame Parotte reproaches our client. They are only imaginary wrongs.

The evidence of Madame Parotte is reduced to nothing by that of Madame Gaschet, who relates a conversation she had with Madame Parotte at the house of one Mr. Laurent. The words used by Madame Parotte upon this occasion, completely exonerates our client from all blame.

The Vancasters arrived in Montreal the 21st August, and were placed the same day with Mr. Félix Lussier, at Varennes. They returned to the Emigration Home the 2nd September, and lived in it one week. Vancaster pretends that it was during the last days of his residence in the Emigration Home, that our client insulted him in every manner.

As we have already spoken of the letter written by Vancaster to Mr. Lesage, the 9th December, and transmitted to the last named by Muller, as well as the affidavit of the Vancasters, sent to Muller, with full liberty for him to make such use of it as he thought proper, we will not return to it. We will merely observe that a period of four long months intervened between the pretended offence and the making of the complaint.

It would appear that our client and Mr. Barnard had intended to take this couple into their service. Mr. Barnard, Emigration Agent, wishes to engage them for his brother, and our client on our side offered them sixteen dollars a month. In the mean time this couple did not engage either with Mr. Barnard or with our client.

Vancaster says his wife informed him that she had been ignominiously persecuted by our client, and that upon her relation

of this to him, he became very excited. This excitement came quite *à propos*, although a little late, because this adorable woman had two months to calm herself.

It is unnecessary to expatiate upon all the details in the evidence of Vancaster. We have already seen that he knew how to perjure himself. It will suffice, for us to indicate some salient points in his deposition, without returning to what we have already said.

Vancaster thinking that his wife wanted protection, promotes a falsehood ingenious enough. He says that being in the office of our client with Lafon, the last named, read to him, at the request of our client, an affidavit against Madame Parotte, and that our client subsequently said to him, that if he would not withdraw the complaint he had made against him to Mr. Lesage, notwithstanding that he had nothing to say against his wife, he would always find means to prove something by somebody. He adds that the individual who had made this deposition against Madame Parotte was present at the time. These facts are expressly denied by Lafon.

But Vancaster did not expect to be cross-questioned, as he has been. We can see that the questions relating to his past life did not please him. Vancaster swears positively that he is married to Louisa Delplace, but his marriage with Louisa Delplace is too delicate a subject, too mysterious to be touched upon by the profane. His betrothing at Wisconsin to Marie Joseph Martin before the Missionary Crote, also forms a very romantic and very intricate episode, in the life of this remarkable man. The letter of Mr. Maurice Del Fosse, Belgium Minister at Washington, explains to us many things that Mr. Vancaster, through his extreme delicacy, left in darkness. But let us pass! let us pass! Let us throw a thin and transparent veil upon the American and European transactions of Mr. Gustave Joseph Vancaster. Let us come without delay to this interesting woman who is not alone appreciated by Vancaster.

Although the paper suffers most, we nevertheless loathe to reproduce the filth uttered without modesty by Madame Van-

caster, with the shamelessness and indifference which distinguished her

Madame Vancaster ought to have fallen under the eye of the frigid but devoted Muller, because they are described as follows, in his imperishable treaty. "There arrived at the home from the land of Belgium a fine young married couple, without children, both good-looking, the woman smart and active with the vivacious eye described by Heine, like a polished dagger half-drawn from the scabbard." With eyes like those Madame Vancaster could not fail to make her way in the world.

Madame Vancaster explains her reason for withholding for so long a time from her husband, the attempt made upon her virtue. She thought she was dying and did not like to sadden the companion of her joy, the chivalrous defender of her honor. This mortal illness did not nevertheless prevent her from dancing the *can can* at Gagnon's wedding. She repudiates it with indignation, and pretends not to know the *can can*. Unfortunately for her, it is thoroughly proved that she had lifted her foot much too high. The Gagnon's and all others who were present at the wedding, with the exception, however, of Master Adam, give evidence of the fact and swear to it.

Madame Vancaster is not without some vanity, but this little black fly does not mar her natural graces. It would appear that Mr. Belle had engaged a Dame Bodinot, but on seeing Vancaster he fainted away. Comparing these two women together, he declared he did not longer want the Bodinot, the other woman being much prettier and much cleaner. Let us see what opinion Madame Vancaster had formed of an honest woman. "A French woman, with a blue cloak, whose name had escaped her, having been insulted by Mr. Belle in the presence of the two Vancasters, went down the stairs indignantly and into the yard, saying *that he was a big pander (gros maquereau)*. The veracious Vancaster forgot to mention this fact in his evidence.

Madame Vancaster pretends that Lafon offered her money to withdraw her complaint, but Lafon expressly denies this charge and gives a complete description in detail, of his interviews with the Vancasters.

Lafon also formally contradicts the statements made by Vancaster upon other points. This woman also pretends that Lafon put her on her guard against Dr. Picault, by saying to her that he, the last named, was in Mr. Belle's interest. Lafon assures us that this statement is not true. As to the remainder, it is in evidence that Dr. Picault saw Vancaster for the last time in December, and that Lafon did not make his acquaintance until the 21st January.

It would appear that Madame Vancaster is very alluring, at least in her own opinion. If we are to believe her, even poor Lafon could not resist the temptation of putting his hand on her bosom. Lafon defends himself warmly and denies the soft impeachment.

Before concluding with the accusations of the Vancasters, we would direct attention to the affidavit produced by Vancaster, with his deposition taken before the commissioner of enquiry. The affidavit and the deposition are far from being alike. It is sufficient to read them to observe the variance. But let us observe that in this affidavit, the deponents swear that they communicated the facts related by them to Mr. Lesage, which is not the case.

For the defence a great number of witnesses have been examined against the Vancasters. Desplechin, the Pelzers, the Gagnons, &c., thoroughly expose the character of Madame Vancaster. After having read all the papers connected with this enquiry, we are convinced that if Mr. Belle had made the slightest indecent proposal to Madame Vancaster, he would not have tried to deny it.

Dr. Picault describes to us the visit made by Madame Vancaster to him in December. She then told him that \$200 had been offered to her to withdraw her complaint, but it was not enough, and that Mr. Belle would not get off for so little.

Dr. Picault qualifies the actions of Madame Vancaster to perfection. He thought it was simply an attempt to extort money.

After having heard the evidence of Madame Vancaster, we naturally believed that the witnesses who followed her, would corroborate what she had said. The prosecutors had been heard, and sustained all these complaints by their oaths, and the enquiry was commenced upon these complaints.

To our extreme surprise new accusations were unexpectedly brought up, and histories entirely new, were related.

We would observe the injustice of an addition to the accusations brought against our client, but our voice was drowned by the cries of our adversaries, who to all our objections replied: "You are then afraid."

We were not afraid, because we knew that Providence would not fail to protect us, and to place at our disposal the means to establish the innocence of our client. The conspiracy was evidently palpable, and we had a firm conviction, that so colossal a work, founded entirely upon falsehood and perjury would crumble, but we had the right to restrain the conspirators within the limits assigned by themselves to their undertaking. Did we do wrong? It is unnecessary now to return to the subject. Let us content ourselves by saying a word about the Moniers and then finish.

The Moniers are those of whom we have already spoken. They made a complaint that was not forwarded to any person, but sent to Muller to enable him to attack our client's character through the press and before the public.

Mr. and Madame Joly, Griffel and Durbize witnesses for the defence, give us an idea into the character of Madame Monier. She is a woman without any discretion, and naturally spiteful and vindictive. When she owes spite to any one, it is for life. Now the husband of this woman was employed for a certain time by our client in his office. As long as Mr. Monier had employment with Mr. Belle, he was considered by his wife as a good man and as the father of the emigrants. When Mr. Belle had no more employment to give Monier, his wife sang another song. Her love was turned to hate, and we know by the evidence what this woman is capable of doing when influenced by hate. Vilifying, and

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even theft will not stay this woman when she is determined to be revenged.

We do not believe that the certificates of devotion, given to Madame Monier by Muller, Perrot, Boncorps and company can renew her character.

Before closing this memorandum, we will take the liberty of making a few reflections which we think very appropriate.

It is unnecessary to repeat that we have had to contend against a vast conspiracy. It is precisely because this conspiracy comprised several elements, and a number of conspirators, that we were able to triumph over them. The course of the plot against our client was too complicated and too tight; the threads broke.

Now, what were the motives of the conspirators? They were manifold. The majority wished to have revenge, believing they had cause for revenge. Some of them were influenced through sordid interests. Others acted through envy, others through complacency, and others purely and simply to do evil.

Let it be observed that all the witnesses against our client, were, before this affair, unknown. There is not one amongst them who is either morally or pecuniarily responsible.

The Counsel representing the Public Minister, far from protecting and assisting us, on the contrary, did all he could against us. He arranged himself on the side of our persecutors, and did not extend to us any kindness, but examined chiefly the witnesses of the prosecution, and cross-examined our witnesses.

The advocate acting for the so-called national societies worked against us, and in concert with the advocate representing the public minister, and made us submit to the same treatment.

One fact worthy of remark is, that all the witnesses for the prosecution, apart from Muller, are French and Belgians. Why then, did the English and Scotch National Societies, the only ones

represented by Mr. Monk, espouse the cause of these people? Had they not their respective consuls? This investigation, we hope, will have good results. It will prove the innocence of our client, and show the injustice of the attacks of which he is the object. The press and the public will, no doubt, profit by the lesson.

Voltaire said: "Lie! Lie! something will always remain." Well—there has been so much lying in all this affair, that most certainly something will remain. How many men have pledged their oath from the beginning, to all the falsehoods pronounced against our client, who did not take, nor would take, the trouble to inform themselves. How many men also, who will believe naught but evil? It is often sufficient for a person to be accused, when on the instant will start the cry "Oh, its true, there is no smoke without fire." The fire of calumny is in the calumniator, but many look for it in calumny, grave error! fatal error! the father land of injustice.

In the business with which we are now engaged, Muller, Boncorps and the others tell us, that they labored in the interests of the emigrants. Shameless falsehood. They did more injury to the cause of emigration than all the faults with which they reproach our client. We must not drift into illusion. This enquiry will cause considerable damage to immigration, more especially amongst the French and Belgians. Confidence will only be restored on the day, that a judicious selection of emigrants is made in Europe, and that we receive in this country people only who can be recommended.

While waiting for things to improve the position of emigration agent, at Montreal, will not be tenable. The door is open to all kinds of accusations, and it is quite possible that many evil disposed persons will profit by it. In the present charge our client was the first to be attacked. We wish to his successor better luck.

We have concluded our labour. Had we more time at our disposal, our work would have been, without doubt, more com-

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plete, and more worthy of the cause we sustain. In any case we have every confidence in our cause, and we submit it without fear.

M. DOHERTY,
J. A. A. BELLE.

Montreal, 14th April, 1873.

In the matter of the Investigation into the conduct of C. E. Belle, Esq., as Immigration Agent and Superintendent of the Immigrants' Home, Montreal.

CASE SUBMITTED BY THE NATIONAL SOCIETIES OF
MONTREAL.

The undersigned respectfully submits the following as the charges made against Mr. Belle :

That during the period of Mr. Hans Muller's stay at the Home as guardian and book-keeper, the Home and its appurtenances were kept in a general state of filthiness.

That the straw-ticks and bolsters provided for the male immigrants, were without any covering whatever.

That those for females, were covered with a white cotton sheet only, merely hiding the paillasse.

That these paillasses and bolsters were during Mr. Muller's stay at the Home, generally infested with vermin.

That the privies attached to the Home, were kept in a state of constant filth, and were during the above period emptied but once.

That the immigrants could not, at times, be supplied with soap or towels.

That the immigrants were not afforded any comfort at the Home, and that they, and the male immigrants in particular, were neglected and treated in a harsh and haughty manner.

That in Mr. Muller's presence, the immigrants frequently complained of the treatment they received at the Home.

That the house-keeper of the Home, was permitted to make profits from the Laundry, at the expense of the immigrants.

That Mr. Belle was aware of the faulty interior arrangements of the Home, and of the above causes of complaint: that they were on several occasions reported to him by Mr. Muller, but that he paid no attention to such reports, and took no steps to better the condition of things

That Mr. Belle conducted himself towards the female immigrants, with a scandalous familiarity and lewdness of manner insulting to their feelings.

That in the disposal of the immigrants, no regard was paid to their fitness for such situations as they were appointed to by Mr. Belle.

That Mr. Belle was guilty of scandalous intimacy with Leonie Barrette, the daughter of the house-keeper.

That the Home, under Mr. Belle's administration, was not worthy of the name of a Home, but was, on the contrary during the said period, an Institution so badly kept as naturally to disgust any immigrant resorting thereto, and to cause them to warn their friends intending to follow them, not to emigrate to Canada, and specially to avoid Montreal, in case they should be tempted to come to this country.

The undersigned is compelled by his duty to the National Societies of Montreal, who appointed him as Counsel, to watch over this investigation in the interest of immigrants, to submit that every one of these charges has been fully proved by the evidence taken under the present commission.

The attempt on the part of the defense to abut this evidence has signally failed, and has for the most part consisted in the bringing of witnesses to throw discredit on the testimony given for the prosecution, which has resulted in corroborating the same, no

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one witness for the prosecution, having been shown unworthy of belief under oath.

Seven documents are herewith submitted.

JNO. MONK

*Counsel appointed by the National
Societies of Montreal.*

Montreal, 15th April, 1873.

CANADA,
PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, }
District of Montreal. }

CHARLES EMMANUEL BELLE, Esquire, of the City of Montreal, Notary, having been duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, doth depose and say :

That at the time of the enquiry, held at the beginning of last year, by Charles A. Leblanc, Esquire, under a commission from His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Quebec, into his conduct as Immigration Agent for this Province, at Montreal, relating to certain charges brought against him by Hans Muller, Henry Parotte, and Gustave Joseph Vancaster, he then offered to purge himself by his oath, of these accusations, and that the same should be established by the record, but the Commissioner refused to accept his personal declaration.

That the deponent availing himself of the favor of the Honorable the Executive Council to be heard, solemnly declares before them his entire innocence of all the charges and insinuations of Muller, Parotte, Vancaster and others.

That deponent now desires to repeat his verbal declarations, under oath, before the Honorable the Executive Council, in order that his statement may be confirmed in a tangible manner and without ambiguity or concealment.

The deponent, therefore, declares under the oath taken by him, that all the charges of indecency brought against him, before

and at the time of the enquiry, are false. He never at any time or under any circumstances committed the slightest indecency towards any emigrant, woman or girl, nor did he attempt to commit any such offence, And the deponent wishes it to be understood by this denial, all form of action without exception, restriction, or concealment.

And regarding the administration of his agency, including the management of the Immigration Home, the deponent declares that he conscientiously performed all his duties to the best of his ability, and with the means at his disposal, pursuant to the intentions and instructions of his superiors in office, and that he always rendered a faithful and exact account of all the operations in his department.

The deponent is convinced, as it is elsewhere proved by the *enquête* papers, that he has been the victim of an odious conspiracy hatched against him by Muller, Parotte, Vancaster and other persons.

Finally, the deponent declares that in resigning his office of Immigration Agent, it is not to be understood that he shelters himself from any examination into his conduct. And deponent alleges in support of his statement that he will continue to defend himself even after his resignation, that he awaits a decision upon the enquiry, and that he has retained under the Quebec Government another office, that of Crown Land Agent.

And deponent hath signed, after the reading of said deposition.

C. E. BELLE.

Sworn before me at Montreal, this }
 third day of January, one thou- }
 sand eight hundred and seventy- }
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J. A. LABADIE,

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Honorable G. OUIMET,
Premier of the Province of Quebec.

SIR,

On 5th July I addressed you on the subject of the "Belle investigation," asking if any decision had been come to by your Government. On the 10th July you replied that the subject was under consideration. On the 11th August I again wrote, asking the result of your consideration, on the 16th of same month you replied that the subject referred to would receive your best attention, totally ignoring the fact, that three months had elapsed since the enquiry closed, and a month since you had advised me that the subject was under your consideration.

I now for the third time, and more than four months after the close of the enquiry, ask you if you have yet come to a decision on the subject, and if so, what that decision is? Waiting your reply which I trust will be more satisfactory than those of July 10th and August 16th.

I have the honor to remain,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

NATHAN MERCER,

*Chairman of the Joint Committee
of the National Societies.*

AFFIDAVITS IN FAVOR OF MADAME MONIER PRODUCED BY MR.
MONK, ADVOCATE, REPRESENTING THE ENGLISH SPEAKING
NATIONAL SOCIETIES.

I, I, the undersigned Priest, certify that Madame Monier, Jeanne Chataignier, to my knowledge frequently performed her religious duties, since she has resided near to the church of St. Joseph, Richmond street.

St. Joseph, 14th April, 1873.

J. T. TALLET,
Priest.

II. I, William Sylvain DeBonald, of the City of Montreal, Doctor in Medicine, having been duly sworn, doth depose and say :

I know Mr. and Madame Monier, since the month of November, when they came to my house, and I frequently went to their's.

That Madame Monier always appeared to me as an honest woman, and I never heard it said that her conduct was open to criticism.

That her conduct and her conversation in my presence was never unseemly.

That I found her charitable and devoted to her compatriots, that I have seen her gratuitously pass many nights at the bedside of one who was dangerously ill from a fall.

That to my knowledge she is entitled in every respect to be believed under oath, and hath signed.

G. S. DEBONALD.

Sworn before me, at Montreal, this }
twelfth April, one thousand eight }
hundred and seventy-three. }

E. D. JOBIN,
C. S. C.

III. I, Josephine Puginier, widow of Antoine Damas, now at the city of Montreal, being duly sworn, doth depose and say :

That I came from France to Canada, on board the steamer Sarmatian, with Mr. and Madame Monier.

That I knew Madame Monier on board of the said steamer as well as at the Emigration Home in St. Antoine street, and that I have not ceased since then to have relations with her.

That I always found Madame Monier an honest woman, occupying herself with her husband and her child, and to my knowledge, her conduct has always been irreproachable.

That she bore an excellent reputation in the ship, and at the Emigration Home, and I never heard her say that she came to Canada to open a house of prostitution.

If any one asserts the contrary under oath, they have perjured themselves.

That I have seen Madame Monier render numerous services on the ship to Madame Lesage, by washing the child of the last named, when its mother was sick, and the child had been allowed to become unclean.

That Madame Monier is worthy in every respect to be believed under oath, and I have signed.

WIDOW DAMAS.

Sworn before me, at Montreal, this }
twelfth April, one thousand eight }
hundred and seventy-three. }

E. D. JOBIN,
C. S. C.

IV. I, Joseph Germaux, now of the city of Montreal, millwright, being duly sworn, doth depose and say :

That I came to Canada in the month of September last, in the same ship as Mr. and Madame Monier.

That I knew Madame Monier on board the ship, and since that period.

That I never heard her use profane language or hold any improper conversation.

That her conduct, to my knowledge, has always been irreproachable.

That her reputation has always been excellent, and that nothing in her conduct appeared to me to be in contradiction with her reputation.

That I never heard her say that she came to Canada to open a house of prostitution.

That if any one swears under oath to facts contrary to the above, I will hold them for perjury, and hath signed.

JOSEPH GERMAUX.

Sworn before me, at Montreal, {
this 12th April, 1873. }

E. D. JOBIN,
C. S. C.

V. I. Délima Cloutier, of the City of Montreal, spinster, being duly sworn, doth depose and say :

That I have known Madame Monier since the ninth of October last.

That on the day of her child's death, I went in company with Miss Belzémire Lapointe, with notice to several French families among others Madame Lesage, to assist at the burial.

That Madame Lesage, on hearing this news, said to us, " I have known this lady since we left Bordeaux only, she must be sadly afflicted, for she appeared to love her child very much.

That Madame Monier under the painful circumstances behaved herself like a true mother of a family.

That since that period I have very often seen Madame Monier, that her behaviour, her conversation, and her conduct has always been that of an honest woman.

That she never in my presence, during the numerous conversations we have had together said anything disrespectful of Priests or of religion, that I see her practice it like a good catholic.

That some time before she was called upon to give evidence at this investigation, she frequently said that she regretted her husband had made a complaint in writing, for she would have

been better pleased, if he had not meddled in this affair, that it was a christian's duty to pardon, and not to be revenged, that is what she would have done; if she was compelled to appear it would not be for herself, but to obtain better treatment for the coming emigrants.

Not being able to sign in consequence of infirmity, I have made the mark of a cross.

DELINA ^{her} ~~X~~ CLOUTIER.
mark

Sworn before me, at Montreal, this }
twelfth day of April, one thou- }
sand eight hundred and seventy- }
three. }

E. D. JOBIN,
C. S. C.

VI. I, Belzemire Lapointe, aged nineteen years, living with my mother in the City of Montreal, being duly sworn, doth depose and say :

That I know Madame Monier since the fourteenth of October last, the day upon which her child died.

That I took a circular of invitation to several French families to attend the funeral and amongst others Madame Lesage.

That Madame Lesage told me in the presence of Miss Délima Cloutier, who accompanied me, many good things of Madame Monier.

That under the painful circumstances, Madame Monier conducted herself as an excellent mother of a family.

That since that period, I have not ceased to visit Madame Monier, that I have seen her frequently at her own house and at my mother's, and that her conduct has always been that of an honest woman.

And I have signed,

BELZEMIRE LAPOINTE.

Sworn before me, at Montreal, this }
 twelfth day of April, one thous- }
 and eight hundred and seventy- }
 three. }

A. D. JOBIN,
C. S. C.

VII. I, Jean Cloutier, of the City of Montreal, joiner, being duly sworn, doth depose and say :

That I know Mr. and Madame Monier since the month of October last.

That Madame Monier passed many evenings with my family, and that I never heard her use profane language, nor hold improper conversation.

That her conduct to my knowledge has always been that of an honest woman, and that I believe her worthy in every respect of being believed on oath, and hath signed.

JEAN CLOUTIER,

Sworn before me, at Montreal, this }
 twelfth April, one thousand eight }
 hundred and seventy-three. }

A. D. JOBIN,
C. S. C.

Montreal, December 18th, 1873.

TO THE HONORABLE THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL :

SIR,

In answer to your letter of the 15th instant, respecting the Belle investigation, informing the National Societies, that the Quebec Government had decided on hearing Mr. Belle in his defence. The societies think this course a very unusual and exceptional one, especially as the Government had appointed a Commissioner, to hear the evidence brought before him in this matter. And as the Government is in possession of the full particulars in

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the case, nothing that can be adduced by Mr. Belle, or said by the Societies in answer to his defence, could in any way affect the facts of the case.

The Societies have already watched the proceedings on behalf of their RESPECTIVE NATIONALITIES, and they consider the case rests entirely in the hands of the Government, and now leave the final disposal of the matter on the merits of the evidence adduced before your Commissioner.

In conclusion, the Societies respectfully suggest that Mr. Monk's letter addressed to the Government, be read before your Council, believing that the prominent points of the case as therein stated, have been fully borne out by the evidence adduced.

We have the honour to be,
your obedient and humble Servants,

G. L. MARTER, Q. O. P. S. G. M.,
Acting Chairman.

THOMAS SIMPSON,
Secretary.

P.

Produced by Charles E. Belle,
on the sixth day of March, one
thousand eight hundred and
seventy-three.

C. A. L.

Produit par Charles E. Belle,
en le sixième jour de mars mil
huit cent soixante-et-treize.

C. A. L.



Province of Quebec. **MONTREAL.** Province de Quebec.

IMMIGRANTS' HOME.

REGULATIONS.

1. Immigrants only who intend to settle in this Province shall be received.

MAISON DES IMMIGRÉS.

REGLEMENTS.

1. Les Immigrés qui ont l'intention de s'établir dans cette Province seront seuls reçus.

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OUTIER,

18th, 1878.

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2. They must not expect to remain in the Home more than 48 hours.

3. Before admission they must have their names registered and answer all proper questions.

4. As soon as admitted they shall wash and clean themselves thoroughly, as directed, and keep themselves so during their stay.

5. Strict order must be kept, and the Officer in charge obeyed.

6. No smoking allowed. The use of intoxicating Liquor is also strictly prohibited. Any person coming to the Home intoxicated will be immediately dismissed.

7. Men, Women and Children, while at the Home, shall do such work and render such assistance as may be required.

8. The time for rising is 6 o'clock, a. m.

9. Meals at 7½ a. m.; Noon, and 6 p. m.

10. Doors closed at 9½ p. m.

11. Improper conduct of any kind shall be met with instant dismissal.

12. All special cases, not provided for, must be attended to and adjudged by the Officer in charge.

C. E. BELLE,

*Crown Lands and Immigration
Agent for the Province of Quebec,
at Montreal.*

Inspection days, Monday and Friday.

2. Ils ne doivent pas s'attendre à demeurer dans la Maison au-delà de 48 heures.

3. Avant leur admission, ils devront faire enregistrer leurs noms, et répondre aux questions qui leurs seront posées.

4. Aussitôt après avoir été admis, ils se laveront et nettoieront leurs habits, suivant en cela les directions qui leurs seront données, et durant leur séjour ils se tiendront parfaitement propres.

5. L'ordre doit être strictement observé, et il faudra obéir à l'Officier en charge.

6. Il n'est pas permis de fumer. L'usage des boissons enivrantes est aussi strictement prohibé. Toute personne se présentant à la Maison dans un état d'ivresse sera immédiatement renvoyée.

7. Les Hommes, Femmes et Enfants, lorsqu'ils seront à la Maison, devront faire les ouvrages et rendre les services qui leur seront demandés.

8. Lever à 6 heures a. m.

9. Repas à 7½ heures a. m.; à Midi, et à 6 heures p. m.

10. Les portes seront closes à 9½ heures p. m.

11. Toute conduite inconvenante sera punie par l'expulsion immédiate.

12. Les cas imprévus seront réglés par l'Officier en charge.

C. E. BELLE,

*Agent des Terres d'Immigration
pour la Province de Québec, à
Montréal.*

Jours d'inspection, Lundi et Vendredi.

To His Excellency the Honorable René Edouard Caron, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Quebec, in the Dominion of Canada.

Pursuant to the terms of the commission of the Honorable Sir Narcisse Fortunat Belleau, then Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Quebec, in the said Dominion of Canada, dated the thirteenth day of January, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, appointing me "commissioner to make an enquiry into certain accusations brought by the within named Hans Muller, Parotte, and Vancaster, against Charles E. Belle, Esquire, emigration agent at the city of Montreal, in the Province of Quebec."

I have the honor to state for the information of Your Excellency, that I began my labours immediately upon the reception of the said commission, the 3rd February, 1873.

My first care was to select a person familiar with both languages, and accustomed to the taking of *enquêtes*, and to the translation of public documents. The choice fell on Peter Macdonell, Esquire, of this city, Advocate, and I am happy to say that this gentleman proved of great service to me, throughout the whole enquiry, and performed the duties confided to him, with all the zeal and intelligence I expected from him.

The accusations and the complaints preferred against the Emigration Home at Montreal, and its superintendent, Mr. C. E. Belle, are contained in a very long document written and signed by Hans Muller, the ex-guardian of the institution, and in two letters written and signed by Henri Parotte, and Gustave Vancaster, respectively. This document and the letters are marked B. C. D.

I instructed the secretary to prepare a copy of the Muller document, and of the letters of H. Parotte and G. Vancaster, and to forward them to the accused Mr. C. E. Belle.

This gentleman did not delay his reply (*Letter I*) in which he declares himself innocent of the charges brought against him, and expressing a wish that the enquiry should take place as soon as possible.

I was desirous to open the enquiry immediately, but owing to the absence of the Attorney-General at Quebec, I felt it to be my duty to delay the opening until the twenty-second day of February, 1873, at half-past two o'clock in the afternoon, in one of the Jury Rooms in the Court House of Montreal, of which date and hour I gave notice in writing to Mr. Belle, by apprizing him that the enquiry would be public, and inviting him to be present to watch over his interests.

The Secretary prepared and drew up in both languages special summonses for the witnesses to be examined before the Commission.

The twentieth of February I took oath of office in my quality of Commissioner before C. E. Schiller, Esquire, Joint Clerk of the Crown at Montreal.

I definitively opened the investigation on the 22nd February, 1873, at half-past two o'clock in the afternoon, pursuant to the notice to the accused, Mr. Belle.

My first act was to administer the oath of office to my Secretary, Mr. Macdonnell.

Mr. St. Pierre, Advocate, represented the Attorney-General, who was absent.

Mr. C. E. Belle instructed Messrs. Peachy & Doherty with the defence of his case, and Mr. John Monk, Advocate, acted as the representative, and in the interest of the National Societies speaking the English language only.

I would take the liberty of referring to book II of the record, in which will be found all the proceedings of the beginning of the investigation.

The charges preferred by Muller cover a field so vast, and so entangled in a language, sometimes pompous, and sometimes of such startling vulgarity, that I felt it to be my first duty, with the assistance of my Secretary, to disentangle this skein of intermixed facts.

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We prepared and drafted a very long series of interrogatories which enabled me to put the examination of Muller into regular order. We can convince ourselves of this by reading the deposition of this witness.

His examination commenced on the 24th February, 1873, and only ended the 6th March following. It occupied eight complete sittings of the Commission.

Twenty-four witnesses (24) were examined in support of the charge.

The following are their names:

Hans Muller,
 Henry Parotte,
 Louise Charlotte Desaint, wife of Parotte;
 Gustave Joseph Vancaster,
 Louisa Delplace, wife of Vancaster;
 Jean-Baptiste Monier,
 Félicia Chataignier, wife of Monier;
 Benjamin Clément,
 Alexandrine Rigolat, wife of Jacquin;
 Paul Jacquin,
 Cyr. Loignon,
 Louis Ursin Selle,
 Jean Pierre Arnaud,
 Jeanne Delbrut, wife of Arnaud,
 Albert Brun,
 Hans Muller, (twice,)
 Louise Bonicho, wife of Archidet;
 Victor Archidet,
 Mathilde Dotzler, wife of Nisini;
 César Nisini,
 Gustave Levallé,
 Annette Culat, wife of Boget,
 Jean Boget,
 Isidore Perrot.

Twenty-three witnesses were examined for the defence.

The following are their names :

Marie Michel, wife of Gasché,
 Adèle Amiotte, wife of Gagnon ;
 Marie Gagnon,
 Pierre Gagnon,
 Pierre Lesage,
 Marie Célestine Depagne,
 Armand Griffel,
 Henri Deplechin,
 Hermann Joseph Pelzer,
 Joseph Joly,
 Clara Marrot, wife of Joly ;
 Marie Narcisse Prévost, wife of Papineau ;
 Jacques Emile Papineau,
 Pierre Etienne Picault, M.D.,
 Nathalie Cousset, wife of Pelzer ;
 B. T. Clément de Borden,
 Jos. Isaïe Rivière,
 Amable Payette,
 Frs. Max. Vincent Lafon,
 Alexandre de Reze.
 Richard Hutton,
 J. A. A. Belle,
 Jean Fleury Durbize.

Seven (7) witnesses were heard in re-examination. The following are their names :

Frédéric Boncorps,
 Isidore Perrot, (twice,)
 Edouard Machgeels,
 Hans Muller, (three times,)
 Etienne Adam,
 Adolphe Brun,
 Geo. Cornwall Conboy,

In re-cross-examination.

M. Placide Archambault.

It is not within the province of my duties to offer an opinion upon the value of the evidence of the numerous witnesses heard during the course of this investigation; nevertheless, I deem it my duty to direct the attention of Your Excellency and the Government to the affidavits bearing the numbers 1, 2, 3 up to 20, inclusively.

When the Counsel for the defence wished to produce these affidavits, which are all alike, the only change being the name of the deponent, the Advocates representing respectively the Government and the National Societies strongly opposed it. We deferred for one or two days the definite admission or rejection of these affidavits. Finally Messrs. St. Pierre and Monk consented to admit them and referred the point to me. I made a rule not to admit any affidavit of this nature, the investigation being public, which enabled the deponents to appear under subpoena as witnesses. Nevertheless, to save precious time, and after having examined the affidavits, I consented to there being filed of record, although, I should say, without having much confidence in their value, the deponents being all unknown to us. * * *

Upon explaining to the Advocates, at the first sitting of the enquiry, the position I wished to take and maintain, I intimated to them that I would not hear any speeches on either side. These gentlemen conformed strictly to my decision.

At the last sitting, these gentlemen requested me to hear them on the merits of the *enquête*; I refused peremptorily, reminding them of the understanding we had arrived at, at the beginning of our labours.

I, however, allowed them to produce, within two or three days, factums in favor of their respective clients.

This explains the appearance in the record of the memorandums of Messrs Darty, Belle and Monk.

Nothing more remains for me to do, but to transmit to your Excellency, the complete record of this long enquiry.

Before concluding, however, I must bear testimony to the good order maintained by the numerous public who assisted at my sittings. Nor must I forget the feeling of deference and respect extended to me by the advocates interested in this enquiry. I would like to believe that my conduct will meet with the approbation of your Excellency and the Government. The whole respectfully submitted.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

Montreal, 21st April, 1873.

MONTREAL, 12th February, 1873.

C. A. LEBLANC, Esquire,
Sheriff, Montreal.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, transmitting to me certified copies of the charges brought against me by the within named Hans Muller, Parotte and Vancaster.

My answer to these accusations is, that I am not guilty, and I desire that the enquiry of which you have spoken should take place as soon as possible. Would you be kind enough to fix it for Monday next.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

C. E. BELLE,
Immigration Agent.

ST. ANDREW'S HOME, 484 DORCHESTER STREET,
Montreal, October 28, 1872.

We, the undersigned Immigrants by the steamer "St. Patrick," landed yesterday morning in Quebec. There the Immigration Agent, Mr. James Thom, provided us with letters to Mr. C. E.

Belle, Immigration Agent, 151 St. Antoine street, Montreal. On our arrival here, we visited the Immigrants' Home, and delivered our letters to the officer in charge of it. He entered our names in a book, and we told him our occupation, having been grocers, whereupon he informed us that he could do nothing for us, and that he could not keep us, as he expected forty immigrants to-night, we might, however, go to the St. Andrew's Home. Our depressed minds were much relieved when we arrived there; by the kind reception extended to us at this place.

THOS. W. MACKINTOSH,
ROBERT SPENCER.

Q

We hereby certify to the efficiency of Mr. H. Muller, as employee in the Immigration Office, where we found him at all times attentive and polite, and watchful over the interest of the immigrants.

Montreal, 12th December, 1872.

R. Gardner & Son, Novelty Works, Montreal;
J McIntosh & Son,
E. H. Chs Lionais,
E. E. Gilbert, & J. P., Canada Engine Works;
A. O. Weaver, Woollen Manufacturer;
W. W. Ryan,
Chas. D. Edwards, Sofa Manufacturer, 49, St. Joseph St.
Wm. Evans, Seedsman;
H. Chandler,
Aug'te Arnos,
F. Geriken, P., St. Lawrence Hall;
Irus & Allen, Hardware Manufacturers;
W. L. Rimmond & Co., Merchants and Manufacturers
&c.,
T. Kieffer & Co., Manufacturers;
F. X. Archambault,
C. F. Nargely, Deputy-Chief of Police;

E. McLennan, Chairman, Committee of Management, St. Andrew's Home ;
 N. Mercer, Merchant ;
 A. Beliveau, Canada Hotel ;
 J. Meryoderre, M.D., Les Sœurs de l'Hôpital Général, (Sœurs Grises) ;
 J. L. Leprohon, Vice-Consul of Spain ;
 W. O'Brien, Les Sœurs de l'Asile de la Providence, Montreal ;
 Pass. Agent, G. T. R. ;
 Hamsqr Praidingr,
 S. B. Rukhu, Passenger Agent ;
 Wm. Rutherford, Lumber Merchant ;
 H. Sherey & Co.,
 R. Warminten & Co., Manufacturers ;
 J. Bell, Chairman, Charitable Committee St. George's Society.

MEMORANDUM.

W

CROWN LANDS & IMMIGRATION OFFICE, P. Q.

Montreal, 1st August, 1872.

Letter produced by Mr. Belle, the 5th March, 1873.

C. A. LEBLANC.

P. L. McDONNELL,

Secretary.

C. E. BELLE, Esq.,

SIR,—Every immigrant who applied here for work up to the present, has been provided with employment or had the offer of it, and in every instance under remunerative prices and fair prospects. However, some would decline all proffers—from causes of excessive pretensions, shyness of labour, illusions, &c., amongst this class. I may enumerate a few particular cases.

Leander W. Walraven, farm director and miller, Belgian, was offered remunerative places in the Plumbago mills of Copland & McLaren, also by James Donald, in his flour mills at \$3.00 per week—he refused both.

Louis Sellier, France, Railway Director, was offered work at Hall & Co., lumber merchants, at \$1.25 per day, and would not accept it, was only a few minutes at the Home, when he found fault with every thing.

George de Fontgalland, France, Office Clerk, was at last persuaded to go to work in Mavor & Co., as Marble Polisher, at \$1.30 per day; left off work after a few days, without being able to assign any cause for so doing, except that he did not like to work.

Nestor de Guy, France, (trader,) refused to accept of a place, where he could make \$1.25 per day; and so on, others bring upon themselves temporary hardship and loss of time by holding out for too high wages, which cannot be acceded to them before their abilities are known, &c., &c.

However, the undeniable fact remains, there is more work here than we have hands to do it, indeed there never was greater demand for men willing to work.

Your obedient Servant,

H. MULLER.

BELGIUM LEGATION,

Washington, 3rd February, 1873.

SIR,

I am in receipt, upon my return to Washington, of your letter of the 31st Jany., in which you inform me that a grave and dishonourable accusation has been brought against you by a person named L. E. Delplace, representing herself to be the wife of Mr. Gustave Joseph Vancaester; and requesting me to make enquiry from the Belgian authorities touching the antecedents of these two persons.

I can at this moment inform you, that last year, or about the end of 1871, an individual named G. J. Vancaster, who was then in Belgium, but had formerly lived at Green Bay in Wisconsin, U. S., wished to get married in Belgium, maintaining that his first marriage in Wisconsin, to a person named Marie Joseph, was null and void, having been celebrated by a missionary named Croute, without other formality.

The result of the enquiry, which I was charged to make upon this subject, and which I have transmitted to the Belgian authorities, is, that the said marriage was in conformity to the laws of Wisconsin, and perfectly valid and indissoluble. I do not know what followed.

I have written to Brussels to further obtain from the authorities, information upon the subject referred to by you. I could not send by telegraph all the explanations, with which it was necessary to furnish the Government in a matter of this nature. I will forward to you, without delay, the answer received by me.

You are not mistaken, Sir, in counting upon the pain, this unhappy affair could not fail to give me; and of which I have no doubt a prompt solution will be speedily obtained to your entire satisfaction.

Believe me, with distinguished consideration,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

MAURICE DELFOSSE,
Minister to Belgium.

To Mr. C. E. BELLE.

Immigration Agent at Montreal.

Montreal, Nov. 29th, 1873.

TO THE HONORABLE GÉDÉON OUIMET,

Premier of the Province of Quebec :

SIR,

In April last, the investigation before Sheriff Leblanc, into the conduct of Mr. C. E. Belle, as Superintendent of the Emigrants' Home in this City closed, after a large amount of evidence had been brought forward to substantiate the charges made against him, of immoral behaviour towards the emigrants, and

neglect of his duties, as Superintendent of the Home. The evidence was immediately sent to you by the Commissioner, and it was expected that in a reasonable time, you would make public your decision, as to whether you consider Mr. Belle innocent or guilty of the charges brought against him.

You made no decision public, and our chairman therefore addressed you on the 5th July, 11th August, and 30th September, respectively. To the two first letters you replied that the matter was under consideration, but to the last, you have not yet made any reply.

The Societies we represent, appreciating the importance of the investigation, employed counsel to watch the evidence, and naturally feel very indignant, that although more than six months have elapsed since the evidence was placed in your hands, you have not made known your opinion of it. They feel that you either cannot be aware of its character, or for some reason or other are desirous of withholding your decision.

We beg most respectfully, but urgently to press upon you that for the reputation of the Province, and for the protection of future Emigrants, it is absolutely necessary, you should give a decision in the premises. If you consider Mr. Belle innocent, don't allow him to remain under the serious charges brought against him, or if you consider that the charges have been proved, let such an example be made of him, as will deter other officials from abusing the confidence placed in them.

We have the honor to remain,

Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

N. MERCER,
THOMAS SIMPSON,
ALI. RN. GIBBON
G. L. MARLOR,
JOHN BARRY,
JOHN C. BECKET,
E. M. LENNAN,
WM. C. MUNDERLOH

Members of the Joint Committee appointed by the National Societies to watch the Belle investigation.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, }
 District of Montreal. }

Dlle. LEONI DALLAPALE, of the City of Montreal, assistant cook, having been duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, doth depose and say :

I arrived here from Europe last June with my mother, and I passed the Summer at the Emigration Home, acting in the capacity of assistant cook and servant ; and I am still so employed in the said home.

Since I have been employed at the home, I have had many opportunities of seeing Mr. C. E. Belle, as he visited it every day to see what was doing, and to give his orders. During this time I declare that Mr. Belle frequently addressed me, but on no occasion did he express himself in words susceptible of wounding my feelings or shocking my modesty.

I would add that this gentleman never took advantage of his position as chief of the home to take any of those liberties with me, which are so often lavished on servant girls. I assert that there never existed between us any relations of so intimate a nature that might lead to an attachment, or any carnal intercourse.

Mr. C. E. Belle has always been a good master to me, as he ought to be,—that is to say, just, reserved, and polite.

I make the present declaration of my own free will, without having been solicited or compelled ; and simply because it is the exact truth, and I wish Mr. Belle to make use of it when required, to destroy all calumnies that might be brought against him.

Witness whereof I have signed the present declaration.

(Signed,) LEONI DALLAPALE.

Sworn before me, commissioner of }
 the Superior Court, this 5th day }
 of February, 1873.

(Signed,) S. P. MOUSETTE,
 Com. S. C.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, }
 District of Montreal. }

No. 1.

Appeared Monsieur VIVIAN, HYPPOLITE, French painter, who, after having been duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, deposeth as follows:—That he arrived here as an emigrant on or about the 8th or 10th of August, 1872; that he stayed immediately on his arrival at the Immigration Home, No. 151, St. Antoine Street, where he was well provided for, as well in respect to food, which was solid and good, as in other respects; that he has no cause of complaint, but much to acknowledge for services rendered to him by the administrators of the Home.

And the said appearer hath signed, after hearing this affidavit read to him.

(Signed,) HYPPOLITE VIVIAN.

Sworn before me, at Montreal, this }
 27th day of February, 1873. }

(Signed,) NAP. VALOIS,
 J. P.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, }
 District of Montreal. }

No. 2.

Appeared JOSEPH GACHET, of the City of Montreal, shoemaker, who, after having been duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, deposeth as follows:—That he arrived here as an emigrant on or about the 13th of June last; that he stayed immediately on his arrival at the Immigration Home, No. 151, St. Antoine Street, where he was well provided for, as well in respect to food, which was solid and good, as in other respects; that he has no cause of complaint, but much to acknowledge for services rendered to him by the administrators of the Home.

And the said appearer hath signed, after hearing this affidavit read to him.

(Signed,) J. GASCHET,
 Shoemaker.

Sworn before me, at Montreal, this }
 20th day of February, 1873. }

(Signed,) S. P. MOUSSETTE,
 Com. S. C.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, }
District of Montreal. }

No. 3.

Appeared JOSEPH GACHET, of the City of Montreal, laborer, who, after having been duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, deposeth as follows :—That he arrived here as an emigrant on or about the 13th of June last ; that he stayed immediately on his arrival at the Immigration Home, No. 151, St. Antoine Street, where he was well provided for, as well in respect to food, which was solid and good, as in other respects ; that he has no cause of complaint, but much to acknowledge for services rendered to him by the administrators of the Home.

And the said appearer declares he cannot sign his name, but has made his mark.

JOSEPH ^{his} ~~X~~ GACHET.
mark.

Sworn before me, at Montreal, this }
 20th day of February, 1873. }

(Signed,) S. P. MOUSSETTE,
Com. S. C.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, }
District of Montreal. }

No. 4.

Appeared BRUELLE ALEXANDRE, of Montreal, farmer, who, after having been duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, deposeth as follows :—That he arrived here as an emigrant on or about the 13th of August, 1872 ; that he stayed immediately on his arrival at the Immigration Home, No. 151, St. Antoine Street, where he was well provided for, as well in respect to food, which was solid and good, as in other respects ; that he has no cause of complaint, but much to acknowledge for services rendered to him by the administrators of the Home.

And the said appearer hath signed, after hearing this affidavit read to him.

(Signed,) BRUELLE ALEXANDRE.

Sworn before me, at Montreal, this }
21st day of February, 1873. }

(Signed,) S. P. MOUSSETTE,
Com. S. C.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, } No. 5.
District of Montreal. }

Appeared AUGUSTE LACROIX, of the City of Montreal, gardener, after having been duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, deposeth as follows :—That he arrived here as an emigrant on or about the 15th of October last ; that he stayed immediately on his arrival at the Immigration Home, No. 151, St. Antoine Street, where he was well provided for, as well in respect to food, which was solid and good, as in other respects ; that he has no cause of complaint, but much to acknowledge for services rendered to him by the administrators of the Home.

And the said appearer declares he cannot sign his name but has made his mark.

(Signed,) AUGUSTE ^{his} LACROIX.
mark

Sworn before me, at Montreal, this }
19th day of February, 1873. }

(Signed,) S. P. MOUSSETTE,
Com. S. C.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, } No. 6.
District of Montreal. }

Appeared HENRI CURE, of the City of Montreal, painter, who, after having been duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, deposeth as follows :—That he arrived here as an emigrant on or about the 15th of October last ; that he stayed immediately on his arrival at the Immigration Home, No. 151, St. Antoine Street, where he was well provided for, as well in respect to food, which was solid and good, as in other respects ; that he has no cause of

complaint, but much to acknowledge for services rendered to him by the administrators of the Home.

And the said appearer hath signed, after hearing this affidavit read to him.

(Signed.) CURE. HENRI.

Sworn before me, at Montreal, this }
19th day of February, 1873. }

(Signed.) S. P. MOUSSETTE,
Com. S. C.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, }
District of Montreal. }

No. 7.

Appeared Monsieur BARON FRANÇOIS, French accountant, who, after having been duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, deposes as follows:—That he arrived here as an emigrant on or about the 1st of October, 1872; that he stayed immediately on his arrival at the Immigration Home, No. 151, St. Antoine Street, where he was well provided for, as well in respect to food, which was solid and good, as in other respects; that he has no cause of complaint, but much to acknowledge for services rendered to him by the administrators of the Home.

And the said appearer hath signed, after hearing this affidavit read to him.

(Signed.) BARON FRANCOIS.

Sworn before me, at Montreal, this }
27th day of February, 1873. }

(Signed.) NAP. VALOIS,
J. P.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, }
District of Montreal. }

No. 8.

ARSÈNE PICARD, of the City of Montreal, coachman, having been duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, doth depose and say:

I arrived here on or about the 18th of October last. I stayed for several days at the Emigration Home, and during that time I was well treated. Mr. Belle, who was then agent at the said Home, gave me all necessary information touching my business, and I have to thank him for his kindness to me.

I declare that several days after my return to the said Emigration Home, I was aware of a violent scene which took place between Mr. Hans Müller, then a clerk in the Home, and Mdme. Widow Barrette, a lady in charge of said Home. Mr. Müller called the said Dame Barrette names of a most injurious character, such as blackguard, thief, and other infamous epithets. Mr. C. E. Belle was compelled to call Hans Müller to order.

This offensive discussion originated through Mr. Belle's examination of the beds of the Home, which Mr. Müller said were full of vermin; but it was untrue.

And the said Arsène Picard hath signed after reading this deposition.

This declaration was given because the said deponent leaves to-day for Boston, United States.

(Signed,)

A. PICARD.

Sworn before me, Commissioner }
S. C. L. C., this 28th day of }
March, 1873.

(Signed,)

S. P. MOUSSETTE,

Com. S. C.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, }
District of Montreal. }

No. 9.

Appeared Mr. PIERRE GUILLARD, of the city of Montreal, coachman, who, after having been duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, deposeth as follows:—That he arrived as an emigrant on or about the 13th of June last; that he stayed immediately on his arrival at the Immigration Home, No. 151, St. Antoine Street,

where he was well provided for, as well in respect to food, which was solid and good, as in other respects ; that he has no cause of complaint, but much to acknowledge for services rendered to him by the administrators of the Home.

And the said appearer further saith, that Mr. Henri Parotte called upon me this morning, at the *Hotel d'Italie*, No. 35, Bonsecour street, and asked me to make a deposition against Mr. C. E. Belle, before the Commissioner taking evidence on this investigation ; I refused to do so, having no complaint to make, either against Mr. Belle or the Emigration Home. I leave this afternoon for Boston ; And further, deponent saith not. The said deposition having been read over to deponent ; he declares the same to contain the truth, persists therein and hath signed.

(Signed,) PIERRE GUILLARD.

Sworn before me, at Montreal, this }
28th day of March, 1873. }

(Signed,) S. P. MOUSSETTE,
Com. S. C.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, }
District of Montreal. } No. 10

Appeared OSCAR MOSER, French brewer, who, after having been duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, deposeth as follows:— That he arrived here as an emigrant on or about the 20th of August, 1872 ; that he stayed immediately on his arrival at the Immigration Home, No. 151, St. Antoine Street, where he was well provided for, as well in respect to food, which was solid and good, as in other respects ; that he has no cause of complaint, but much to acknowledge for services rendered him by the administrators of the Home.

And the said appearer hath signed, after hearing this affidavit read to him.

(Signed,) OSCAR MOSER.

Sworn before me, at Montreal, this {
27th day of February, 1873. }

(Signed) NAP. VALOIS,
J. P.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, {
District of Montreal. } No. 11.

Appeared **AMATEUR LEFEUVRE**, of the City of Montreal, mechanic, fitter, who, after having been duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, deposeth as follows:—That he arrived here as an emigrant on or about the 1st of October last; that he stayed immediately on his arrival at the Immigration Home, No. 151, St. Antoine Street, where he was well provided for, as well in respect to food, which was solid and good, as in other respects; that he has no cause of complaint, but much to acknowledge for services rendered to him by the administrators of the Home.

And the said appearer hath signed, after hearing this affidavit read to him.

(Signed,) LEFEUVRE, AMATEUR.

Sworn before me, at Montreal, this {
19th day of February, 1873. }

(Signed,) S. P. MOUSSETTE.
Com. S. C.

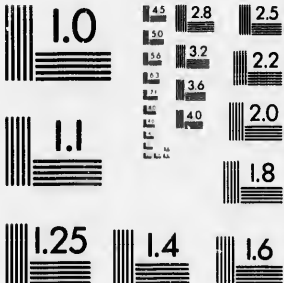
PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, {
District of Montreal. } No. 12.

Appeared **PIERRE GACHET**, of the City of Montreal, laborer, who, after having been duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, deposeth as follows:—That he arrived here as an emigrant on or about the 13th of June last; that he stayed immediately on his arrival at the Immigration Home, No. 151, St. Antoine Street, where he was well provided for, as well in respect to food, which



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was solid and good, as in other respects ; that he has no cause of complaint, but much to acknowledge for services rendered to him by the administrators of the Home.

And the said appearer hath signed, after hearing this affidavit read to him.

(Signed,) P. GACHET.

Sworn before me, at Montreal, this }
20th day of February, 1873. }

(Signed,) S. P. MOUSSETTE.

Com. S. C.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, }
District of Montreal. }

No. 13.

Appeared PIERRE BOURDIER, of the City of Montreal, laborer, who, after having been duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, deposeth as follows :—That he arrived here as an emigrant on or about the 13th of June last ; that he stayed immediately on his arrival at the Immigration Home, No. 151, St. Antoine Street, where he was well provided for, as well in respect to food, which was solid and good, as in other respects ; that he has no cause of complaint, but much to acknowledge for services rendered to him by the administrators of the Home.

And the said appearer hath signed, after hearing this affidavit read to him.

(Signed,) BOURDIER PIERRE.

Sworn before me, at Montreal, this }
20th day of February, 1873. }

(Signed,) S. P. MOUSSETTE,

Com. S. C.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, }
 District of Montreal. } No. 14.

Appeared ANTOINE ROCHE, of the City of Montreal, chimney mender, who, after having been duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, deposeth as follows:—That he arrived here as an emigrant on or about the 26th of May, 1872; that he stayed immediately on his arrival at the Immigration Home, No. 151, St. Antoine Street, where he was well provided for, as well in respect to food, which was solid and good, as in other respects; that he has no cause of complaint, but much to acknowledge for services rendered to him by the administrators of the Home.

And the said appearer hath signed, after hearing this affidavit read to him.

(Signed,) ANTOINE ROCHE.

Sworn before me, at Montreal, this }
 20th day of February, 1873. }

(Signed,) S. P. MOUSSETTE,
 Com. S. C.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, }
 District of Montreal. } No. 15.

Appeared FODRINE ANTOINE, of the City of Montreal, bricklayer, who, after having been duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, deposeth as follows:—That he arrived here as an emigrant on or about the 20th of July, 1872; that he stayed immediately on his arrival at the Immigration Home, No. 151, St. Antoine Street, where he was well provided for, as well in respect to food, which was solid and good, as in other respects; that he has no cause of complaint, but much to acknowledge for services rendered to him by the administrators of the Home.

And the said appearer, hath signed after hearing this affidavit read to him.

(Signed,) FODRINE ANTOINE.

Sworn before me, at Montreal, this }
20th day of February, 1873. }

(Signed,) S. P. MOUSSETTE,
Com. S. C.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, }
District of Montreal. } No. 16.

Appeared PIERRE BURDON, of the City of Montreal, stone-cutter, who, after having been duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, deposeth as follows:—That he arrived here as an emigrant on or about the 15th of October last; that he stayed immediately on his arrival at the Immigration Home, No. 151, St. Antoine Street, where he was well provided for, as well in respect to food, which was solid and good, as in other respects; that he has no cause of complaint, but much to acknowledge for services rendered to him by the administrators of the Home.

And the said appearer hath signed, after hearing this affidavit read to him.

(Signed,) PIERRE BURDON.

Sworn before me, at Montreal, this }
19th day of February, 1873. }

(Signed,) S. P. MOUSSETTE,
Com. S. C.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, }
District of Montreal. } No. 17.

Appeared JULIEN CAZET, of the City of Montreal, stone-cutter, who, after having been duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, deposeth as follows:—That he arrived here as an emigrant on or about the 15th of October last; that he stayed immediately on his arrival at the Immigration Home, No. 151, St. Antoine Street, where he was well provided for, as well in respect to food, which was solid and good, as in other respects; that he has no cause of

complaint, but much to acknowledge for services rendered to him by the administrators of the Home.

And the said appearer hath signed, after hearing this affidavit read to him.

(Signed,) CAZET, JULIEN.

Sworn before me, at Montreal, this }
19th day of February, 1873. }

(Signed,) S. P. MOUSSETTE,
Com. S. C.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, }
District of Montreal. }

No. 18.

Appeared ARMAND MOREAU, of the City of Montreal, tailor, who, after having been duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, deposeth as follows:—That he arrived here as an emigrant on or about the 13th of June last; that he stayed immediately on his arrival at the Immigration Home, No. 151, St. Antoine Street, where he was well provided for, as well in respect to food, which was solid and good, as in other respects; that he has no cause of complaint, but much to acknowledge for services rendered to him by the administrators of the Home.

And the said appearer hath signed, after hearing the affidavit read to him.

(Signed,) ARMAND MOREAU

Sworn before me, at Montreal, this }
20th day of February, 1873. }

(Signed,) S. P. MOUSSETTE,
Com. S. C.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, }
District of Montreal. }

No. 19.

Appeared LOUIS BERTHELON, of the City of Montreal, cook, who, after having been duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists,

deposeth as follows :—That he arrived here as an emigrant on or about the 16th September, 1872 ; that he stayed immediately on his arrival at the Immigration Home, No. 151, St. Antoine Street, where he was well provided for, as well in respect to food, which was solid and good, as in other respects ; that he has no cause of complaint, but much to acknowledge for services rendered to him by the administrators of the Home.

And the said appearer hath signed, after hearing this affidavit read to him.

(Signed,) L. BERTHELON.

Sworn before me, at Montreal, this }
21st day of February, 1873. }

(Signed,) S. P. MOUSSETTE,
Com. S. C.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, }
District of Montreal. }

No. 20.

Appeared THOMAS LABOURDETTE, of the City of Montreal, cook, who, after having been duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, deposeth as follows :—That he arrived here as an emigrant on or about the 2nd or 3rd of August last, 1872 ; that he stayed immediately on his arrival at the Immigration Home, No. 151, St. Antoine Street, where he was well provided for, as well in respect to food, which was solid and good, as in other respects ; that he has no cause of complaint, but much to acknowledge for services rendered to him by the administrators of the Home.

And the said appearer hath signed, after hearing this affidavit read to him.

(Signed,) THOMAS LABOURDETTE.

Sworn before me, at Montreal, this }
21st day of February, 1873. }

(Signed,) S. P. MOUSSETTE,
Com. S. C.

City of Montreal :—

1873.

Official report and return of the proceedings had before, and during the *enquête* made relating to certain accusations, &c., &c., brought against Charles E. Belle, Esquire, emigration agent at Montreal.

30th Jan'y., 1873.—Commission of the Honorable Sir Narcisse Fortinat Belleau, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Quebec, appointing Charles André Leblanc, Esq., Queen's Counsel, Commissioner to institute an enquiry into certain charges brought by the within named Hans Muller, Parotte, and Vaneaster, against Charles E. Belle, Esquire, emigration agent at the City of Montreal, in the Province of Quebec. Received the 3rd of February, 1873, with the following documents:

Received 3rd February, 1873.—*1st.* A long document bearing the English title: "*The Immigrants' Home, No. 151, St. Antoine Street, Montreal, under the administration of C. E. Belle, Immigration Agent,*" and received from the Commissioner through the medium of the Assistant-Secretary of the Province of Quebec.

2nd. A letter signed by H. Parotte, Market Hotel, Mountain Street, 99, Montreal. [Dec., 1872.]

3rd. A letter from Gustave Vaneaster, policeman, Montreal. [9th Dec., 1872.]

4th. A letter from H. Muller to S. Lesage, Esquire, Deputy-Commissioner of Agriculture and Public Works. [7th Dec., 1872.]

- See Paper F.* 5th. A letter from H. Muller to S. Lesage, Esquire, Deputy-Commissioner of Agriculture and Public Works. [16th Dec., 1872.]
- See Paper G.* 6th. A letter from H. Muller to S. Lesage, Esquire, Deputy-Commissioner of Agriculture and Public Works. [9th Dec., 1872.]
- See Paper H.* 7th. A letter from C. E. Belle to the Honorable the Commissioner of Agriculture and Public Works, Quebec, asking for copies of Muller's papers, and the letters of Parotte and Vancaster, and praying for an investigation into his conduct.

MONTREAL, 14th January, 1873.

11th February, 1873.—The following letter was addressed the 11th February, 1873, to C. E. Belle :

SHERIFF'S OFFICE,
Montreal, 11th February, 1873.

To Charles E. Belle, Esquire, Immigration Agent, at the City of Montreal.

SIR,

Having been directed by commission of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Quebec, dated the thirtieth day of January, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, to institute an enquiry into "certain accusations brought by the within named "Hans Muller, Parotte and Vancaster, "against Charles E. Belle, Esquire, Immigration Agent, at the City of Montreal, in "the Province of Quebec." I have the honor to transmit to you with this note, certified copies of the said accusations, to wit, those of Muller, Parotte and Vancaster.

ller to S. Lesage,
Commissioner of Agriculture,
[16th Dec., 1872.]

ller to S. Lesage,
Commissioner of Agriculture,
[9th Dec., 1872.]

to the Honorable
Secretary of Agriculture and Public
Works, copies of Muller's
report on Parotte and Van-
caster's investigation into

January, 1873.

was addressed the
C. E. Belle :

February, 1873.

ire, Immigration
Montreal.

by commission of
of the Province of
Monday of January,
hundred and seventy-
three into "certain
enquiries within named
Hans Muller, Parotte,
and Vancaster,
Esquire, Immi-
gration Agent, of
Montreal, in
reference to the
above." I have the
pleasure to send
you with this note,
copies of the above
and Vancaster.

See Paper 1.

Would you please inform me, Sir, when
you will be ready to answer these charges,
in order that I may fix the time and place
where the enquiry, (which is to be public,)
will be held.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

C. A. LEBLANC.

In answer to this letter, Mr. C. E. Belle
wrote the following letter, dated 12th Feb-
ruary, it only reached its address, however,
on the 14th.

MONTREAL, 12th February, 1873.

C. A. LEBLANC, Esquire,
Sheriff, Montreal.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt
of your letter of the 11th instant, transmit-
ting to me certified copies of the charges
brought against me by the within named
Hans Muller, Parotte and Vancaster.

My answer to these accusations is, that I
am not guilty, and I desire that the enquiry
of which you have spoken should take place
as soon as possible. Would you be kind
enough to fix it for Monday next.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

C. E. BELLE,

Immigration Agent.

18th February, 1873.—The 18th of February Commissioner Leblanc wrote the following letter to Mr. Belle:

SHERIFF'S OFFICE,
Montreal, 18th February, 1873.

CHARLES E. BELLE, Esquire,
Emigration Agent,
Montreal.

SIR,

I would have wished to have fixed the enquiry relating to certain charges, &c., &c., brought against you, at the date mentioned in your letter. Unfortunately, owing to the absence of the Hon. Attorney-General at Quebec, I have been prevented from so doing. To-day, and for two or three days following, I will be obliged to keep my room through serious indisposition. In any case I have definitely fixed the first day of this *enquête* for *Saturday next*, the twenty-second of February instant, at *half-past two* o'clock in the afternoon, in the Court House, in this city.

In consequence, I give you notice to be then and there present, from day to day following, to give answer to the accusations brought against you in your quality of Emigration Agent at the City of Montreal.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your very humble Servant,

C. A. LEBLANC.
Commissioner.

20th February, 1873.—On the morning of the 20th February, 1873, a subpoena, addressed to Hans Muller, was placed in the hands of high constable Bissonette, with instructions to serve it upon the said Hans Muller, and to make his return to Commissioner Leblanc.

20th February 1873.—Sheriff Leblanc took the oath of office in his quality of Commissioner, &c., before C. E. Schiller, Esquire, Clerk of the Crown.

GRAND JURY ROOM,
Court House,
City of Montreal. }

22nd February, 1872, 2.30 P.M.

Conformably to the notice signified to Charles E. Belle, Esq., Emigration Agent, at the City of Montreal, Charles A. Leblanc, Esquire, Queen's Counsel, Sheriff of the district of Montreal, and Commissioner appointed to institute an enquiry *faire une enquête* into certain accusations brought by Hans Müller, Parotte and Vancaster, against Charles E. Belle, Emigration Agent, publicly opened the said enquiry at the time and place specified in the said notice, to wit: in the grand jury room, in the Court House, in the City of Montreal, at 2.30, P.M.

PRESENT:

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, Q. C.

Commissioner.

PETER L. MACDONELL, Esquire, Advocate, Secretary, appointed to the said Commission of enquiry, took oath of office before the said Commissioner.

The Secretary next read in an audible voice, the Commission of the Honorable Sir Narcisse Fortunat Belleau, dated 30th January last, appointing the said Charles A. Leblanc, Commis-

sioner, to make an enquiry into certain accusations brought by Hans Müller, Parotte and Vancouver, against Charles E. Belle, Esquire, Emigration Agent at Montreal.

Mr. St. Pierre, advocate, appeared to represent the Government in the absence of the Attorney-General.

Messrs. Doherty and Piché, Q. C., appear for Mr. Belle, and plead not guilty to the charges.

Mr. Monk, advocate, appears to represent the English speaking National Societies of Montreal, to watch the proceedings of the enquiry in the interest of justice.

The correspondence exchanged between the Commissioner and Mr. C. E. Belle, is read by the Secretary.

Mr. St. Pierre moves that the accusations be openly read in an audible voice. The advocates representing Mr. Belle object to this reading.

The Commissioner decides that the reading should take place, inasmuch as this enquiry is of a public nature, and in order that the facts forming the subject of enquiry may become known.

In consequence, the Secretary read in a loud voice, the written accusations submitted to the Commissioner.

It being half-past four o'clock in the afternoon when the reading was finished; the Commissioner declares the sitting closed, and adjourns the continuation until Monday next, the twenty-fourth day of February instant, at two in the afternoon.

The Commissioner announces, after consultation with the Attorneys representing the parties, that the sitting will be held every juridical day, from two to five o'clock, P.M.

And the sitting adjourned.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

[Attested,]

PETER L. MACDONELL,
Secretary.

ENQUIRY

INTO THE

EMIGRATION HOME,

No. 151, ST. ANTOINE STREET, MONTREAL.

—:O:—

MONDAY, 24th February, 1873, 2 o'clock, P.M.

PRESENT :

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, Q. C.,

Commissioner.

HANS MÜLLER, being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, doth depose and say :

I am forty-eight years of age, and a Commission Agent. I have been residing in Montreal from ten to twelve years, I know Mr. Charles E. Belle, the Immigration Agent. I am the person who lodged a complaint against that gentleman before the Government.

(Here the commissioner ordered that the witnesses present in the room retire, and that they do not re-appear until they are regularly summoned by him to give their evidence.)

Hans Müller having given the names of these witnesses to the High Constable Bissonette, the latter wrote them down, and the witnesses retired.)

And the witness resumed his deposition.

The house is kept in a very decidedly dirty state, I mean particularly so since the house came under the management of the present housekeeper.

I went for the first time in the Home during the course of April, 1872. I was called to Mr. Belle's office, and he told me that he might employ me temporarily; this was at the commencement of April last. It was to assist principally in office work of the Immigration Home. This Home is situated at 151, St. Antoine street. About the middle of April or thereabouts, I entered the Home. I remained there until the 22nd of October last. My wages were in the beginning, one dollar and 50 cents a day, Sundays included if required. When the then so called guardian departed, I received two dollars a day.

When I arrived there in April, there were a few immigrants at the time in the House. The state of the House, I considered at the beginning to be in an inefficient state to receive immigrants. When I say that the House was not in an efficient state, I do not mean to say it was on account of Mr. de Milleneuve and his wife and his niece, because whatever they did, they did so under the orders of Mr. Belle. The house is an old house; the sleeping apartments were only provided with straw paillasses; there were four large dormitories; one next the office which was a good sized room, all around these rooms were bunks in a slanting position upon which were merely straw paillasses; there was no covering whatsoever for the immigrants in three of these rooms, except what they supplied themselves. The first dormitory mentioned was for females, to this one there was a white cotton covering merely to hide the sight of the paillasse.

During the time that house was under the management of Mr. and Madame de Milleneuve, it was tolerably clean, not as clean, however, as a house of that description should be kept.

Mr. and Madame de Milleneuve, left the house about the commencement of June. I wish to remark about the dormitory in the side building, wherein the paillasses were not covered with any sheeting, that it was acknowledged by Mr. Belle himself to be damp and unhealthy. These last apartments were on the first flat. On the second flat there is one very large room divided with two folding doors, I speak of the time when I was there first. These were used alternately for males or females according to re-

quirements, the other apartments were set apart for the use of the family of Mr. and Mrs. de Milleneuve. After the departure of the latter, this apartment was occupied by the present house-keeper Madame Barette and her daughter, Belgians. The house is a two story one beside the attic, in which latter were three rooms for immigrants and two other as store-rooms for linen, &c., &c. Two rooms in the attic were furnished with beds; and one in the same style as those below. The beds in the attic were a little better. The attic rooms were reserved for families of more favored immigrants. On the lower flat there were a dining-room, a small sitting-room, a kitchen and a wash-room.

When Mrs. Barette was placed in charge of the house, she found it in tolerably good condition. Under her management the house became more and more dirty and filthy, and lousy, to that extent that immigrants engaged at the Home were sent back by their employers, because they would not be kept in service on account of the vermin on their bodies. Amongst these, I may mention the name of Mr. James Croyle, employer; I do not remember any other names at this present moment.

I mean that immigrants became lousy on account of the dirtiness of the house.

The closets were not within the house; they were at the end of the yard, from nine to twelve feet from the house. They were almost constantly in a very neglected state, and evidently quite too small for an Institution of this description. They were divided into two compartments, one very small for the females, and a miserable, narrow place for the males. I have not been in the house since I left about the end of October, at the time I was discharged. During the time I was employed, I remained in the house every day. At the beginning of my engagement I came in at nine o'clock in the morning and left at six o'clock in the afternoon. I had to assist at the reception of immigrants, sometimes at eight, or nine, or ten o'clock in the evening, as it was required by circumstances. My hours of work increased so that I was obliged to work from five in the morning till half-past ten at night. I resided in the house with my family from the commence-

ment of September until my final departure, or about two months, so far as I can remember.

The bath and wash-room is much too small, constantly dirty, frequently without towels and soap. I remember well that I heard complaints every day, which I communicated to Mr. Belle. These complaints were against the sleeping accommodations, which were very bad, also against the wash-room, privies, &c., and the general state of the house, and that the victuals were very dirty. The house was old and in pretty good condition, and the rooms could have been kept clean. If the house contained one hundred immigrants, it was uncomfortably crowded. The largest number of immigrants I saw at one time was from one hundred and twenty-five to one hundred and fifty.

It was the usage that as soon as we were telegraphed that a car or a steamer of immigrants was coming in, to go to the station or to the wharf to receive them; only, if the immigrants should arrive after eleven in the evening, we were not going to receive them, but they were to be kept in the station until the following morning; this order was much complained of both by the immigrants and the authorities at the station.

My orders from Mr. Belle were to receive immigrants at the arrival of the train at the station or the arrival of steamers, and then to bring them up to the Home. My order was distinctly that if the train with immigrants should arrive after eleven o'clock at night, not to meddle any more with them for the night, and go for them on the ensuing morning. My orders were to go for them at half-past five. Immigrants complained of these orders. It happened every week that immigrants were left in the station during nights, that is to say, those who arrived after eleven o'clock at night. These orders were kept for about five months. I offered my services to be at hand any time during the night. Mr. Belle had no objection to this. It was agreed between Mr. Dreifeuss, the policeman of the station, and myself, that should any immigrants arrive at any hour after eleven o'clock, and that I should miss the train, he was to send them up to the Home, which he did. This I undertook, of course, after I was taken in as an

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employee of the house. The immigrants complained each time of being left in this way during nights at the station, after their long journey in the cars, that is to say, after fifteen or twenty hours' travelling. Immigrants, on arrival, were conducted to the Home. They were received by me in as friendly a manner as I possibly could show. I first entered their names in a book; afterwards I told them to go into the bath and wash-room to wash themselves. That bath was useless for the purpose intended.

As a rule, Mr. Belle was never there when the immigrants arrived. Generally Mr. Belle called in at twelve o'clock; he remained generally from twelve to two o'clock. If he found out that during this interval an immigrant train was expected, he would prolong his stay. Mr. Belle also came back frequently to the Home, whenever informed by me that a train was expected in the evening.

Breakfast generally took place between seven and eight in the morning—dinner from twelve to one—supper from six to seven in the afternoon. The dining-room could hold no more than twenty-five immigrants—they were accommodated at meals as they came in. Food was provided by the house. In the morning very bad coffee was supplied—and bread and butter—the bread was very good—the butter some times fair and some times very bad, numerous complaints were made to me and communicated by me to Mr. Belle. Dinner was composed of soup—consisting of bouillon, cabbage, potatoes with beef boiled altogether in one kettle—this was the invariable fare for dinner every day—the beef was good but too much cooked so that it crumbled into pieces; this was due to the cook who did not understand her business. There was enough of that soup to satisfy the people's appetites, each immigrant was supplied with a plate. Supper consisted of coffee, bread and butter, and some times, for a change, of a kind of fricassée or remains of the dinner cooked up again. The tea and coffee were very bad, and of meanest quality. The plates, knives and forks were not kept clean; the soup itself was cooked in unclean vessels—for instance, slop-pails used in the chambers were also used for receiving peeled potatoes, and I complained particularly of this last to Mr. Belle. Mr. Belle said: "Oh! this may happen sometimes."

The housekeeper and her daughter were the only two servants in the house, but the wives of immigrants used to assist them occasionally although not always very willingly.

I never had any difficulty with Mr. Belle in actual business; although I may have had a few words with him on other points.

The cause of trouble with Mr. Belle and me, [this was from one to two months before my final departure,] was when in my assuming the guardianship of the house; he told me that I would have an increase of half a dollar per day from the first of that month to the end of the same month. At the end of the month I only received my usual pay of one dollar and a-half a day; when mentioning to Mr. Belle why he did not pay me according to promise, he told me some story about having first to report to the Government at Quebec. When I reminded him that he should not play those things with me, being such a hard-worked man, he said I would receive my extra pay at the pay day of next month; when he gave me but ten dollars for the extra pay of the month, on the statement that he would pay me a dollar a day from the twentieth to the thirtieth which would be ten dollars, by which little transaction I lost five dollars and fifty cents; but which Mr. Belle paid me afterwards. During this misunderstanding I used sharp words to the point, and Mr. Belle said that he would remember this; I remained in the house for six weeks longer.

I constantly complained to Mr. Belle of the way in which the house was kept. Mr. Belle answered "those things could not be helped, that there was a great deal of work in the house." I have positive knowledge the immigrants were really very badly treated in the house many times. They were ill-treated because they were so miserably lodged, and I saw them suffering severely on a chilly night, for they had not the slightest covering over them—blankets were served only in October, I believe the stove was placed in the hall behind, and in October, that stove was sufficient. But those immigrants who were obliged to sleep in the dormitory in the shed had no stove and nothing to cover themselves with. They complained of this, and said they were treated like dogs. This shed is the meanest building as a construction, only fit for

summer use ; in the beginning it was so miserably built that the rain poured down through the roof, and the inmates had to leave. This I saw with my own eyes and so did Mr. Belle. This roof was then repaired by order of Mr. Belle. This shed was a simple frame erection good enough for summer, but in too close vicinity to the privies. And the deponent hath signed.

HANS. MULLER.

The inquest is continued to to-morrow, Tuesday, the twenty-fifth day of February instant, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

[Attested,]

PETER L. MACDONELL,
Secretary.

TUESDAY, twenty-fifth February, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

PRESENT :

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, Q. C..

Commissioner.

The examination of Hans Muller, is resumed, and is continued as follows :

One morning, between four and five o'clock, either in May or June, 1872, I found an old man in the Home wanting to get water and go to bed, I got the water for him. Everything was refused to immigrants by reason of having been admitted before the hour fixed by Mr. Belle. The old man said I can't get water nor a bed, and therefore I procured it for him. I did so from simple feelings of humanity ; this was the guardian's business and not mine, but I took upon myself to do it. What I know of this is from what the old man told me. I remonstrated with the guardian Mr. de Milleneuve about this, who then furnished him with both water and bed.

In May or June last, I found in one room some thirty persons huddled together, wanting to get better accommodation and washing. There were but one table and one bench in this room. This room was used as a kind of sitting room. There was sitting accommodation for about ten persons only, the rest sat upon the table in every position. These people bitterly complained of this, and wanted to leave the Home forthwith. When afterwards I went for Mr. Belle to make them stay at the Home; Mr. Belle arrived there between six and seven in the morning. He asked them if they had letters from Mr. Thom, the immigration agent at Quebec. They had them and exhibited them. Then, when he enquired how they came to be in the house at that time; these people arrived during the night, and I found them at the Home, and was told that they had come in during the night; Mr. Belle told them that if they had come in at the regular hours, they would have found better accommodation; it could not be expected that the house should be kept open all night. After that, the immigrants left the Home in different directions, highly displeased with their first acquaintance with the Home; and most of them never returned. My opinion is that these immigrants did not return because they were displeased with the whole arrangement of the Home.

I only know of water having been refused on this last occasion.

These immigrants who had been admitted after the regular hour of admittance had been admitted through a mistake; and this happened only once.

I ascribe solely to Mr. Belle the hardships to which the immigrants were submitted.

The immigrants above mentioned were all Scotch.

In April there were two Belgian families at the Home; they complained to me one morning that they were nearly chilled with cold, showing me their suffering little families; I then answered: why do you not warm yourselves; they told me they could get no wood because the wood shed was closed, and

that they could not go into the kitchen as it was forbidden by Mr. Belle; this latter fact I know personally. Mr. Belle has told many times that immigrants should not be permitted into the kitchen.

I ordered the two Belgian mothers to get wood by my orders. The wood was locked up that night. The wood was locked up by the guardian; after my orders, the guardian delivered over the wood to the Belgian families. This took place between eight and nine o'clock in the morning. I only know that the wood was locked up that once.

I told the husbands to make their complaints direct to Mr. Belle. They did make them in my presence. Mr. Belle told them that "they had no business to grumble constantly, as it was not his fault that they were detained so long at the Home; the husbands added to Mr. Belle that they had not been so roughly spoken to in their own country.

They were really roughly spoken to.

"You grumble constantly and you have grumbled before," were the words addressed to them by Mr. Belle in a rough manner.

These two Belgian families here mentioned were provided with means, but considered themselves obliged to stop at the Home by the order of the agent at home, otherwise they might have gone somewhere else.

In saying "there is a good deal in names," (in my information to Government) I mean to say that Mr. Belle was so extremely and particularly anxious to have the names of the newly arrived immigrants entered in the book, with special order to me that whenever an immigrant, no matter wherefrom, should present himself at the bar of the office, to have his name entered, even if the immigrant did not want or intend to stop at the Home; this done, he was just as anxious to have him out of the Home again.

The state of the kitchen was under the management of Madame Barette, constantly dirty and disorderly. Latterly I had some control over the kitchen; I expostulated on that account, but without the least success, and the kitchen consequently remained in the same condition.

When I say that Mr. Belle knew that, after all, the frame building erected in the yard had been a success. I mean that he did build it as cheap as possible. I understand that this shed was built on account of the Government. I do not know the contractor's name.

People sleeping in this shed complained of vermin. I know personally that there was vermin in that building. I complained of this to Mr. Belle. He then ordered that a certain powder be spread over the paillasses.

The privies were placed at about equal distance from the two dormitories, that is to say, from nine to twelve feet. They were very offensive, and never emptied during the time I was at the Home. Sometimes disinfectants were used to remove this nuisance.

The attic rooms set apart for females and their children, were, under the management of Madame Barette, in a very dirty state, both floor and linen.

If not too many married couples assembled together, there was sufficient accommodation provided; but no matter how few the married couples, it was set down as a rule that men and wives should be separated so far as sleeping was concerned. I know instances when the contrary was done without permission. I never did myself give any permission of that kind, and could not. Very bitter complaints were made on that account.

Mr. Belle had a private room in the Home; he used to take his luncheon there.

There were complaints made by several immigrants in my presence to Mr. Belle about the food; he told them that if they did not like it they might seek other quarters.

When I say that the Colonel indulged the cook and her nice little daughter of only eighteen summers, for overlooking table-cloths, &c., &c. I mean that one afternoon, I should say in the month of August last, I came suddenly in a passage upon Mr. Belle and the house-keeper's daughter, Miss Léoni Barette. Mr. Belle at the time leaning against the wall; Miss Léoni in the closest proximity to him, playing most intimately and confidently about his person. And that is exactly what I saw. By playing confidently about his person, I mean that Miss Léoni pressed both her hands on each side of Mr. Belle's body.

I passed quickly in, and Mr. Belle seemed somewhat disconcerted when he saw me. I left them in the passage.

I never spoke to Mr. Belle about this; it was none of my business to do so.

When I say that the impression made upon the immigrants by the interior arrangement and management of the Home as likely to induce them to turn their backs to that Institution. I mean that everything looked dilapidated, as I have already said, and the scanty sleeping accommodation.

Generally, at their arrival, immigrants are hopeful and well disposed; but they were not so gay when they left the Home, on account of the bad reception they received at Mr. Belle's hands, who addressed them in an overbearing manner, haughty and insolent, giving great offence to them, by *tutoying* them.

Mr. Belle's general demeanour with the immigrants was haughty and insolent; towards the females his manners partook of the recklessness of a libertine.

HANS MULLER.

As it is five o'clock in the afternoon, the deposition of the witness is continued to Thursday, the 27th instant, at two o'clock in the afternoon, seeing that to-morrow, Wednesday, (*Les Cendres*) is a non-judicial day.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

[Attested,]

PETER L. MACDONELL,
Secretary.

THURSDAY, the twenty-seventh day of February, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

PRESENT :

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, Q. C.,

Commissioner.

The deposition of Hans Müller is continued as followeth :

When I styled Mr. Belle's manners with the females as the recklessness of a libertine, I meant to say at the arrival of female immigrants, (I now allude to one case which I saw myself.) There arrived at the Home two French immigrant women ; the younger one with pleasant face, very full in her form, dressed in fine black French merino, with gold chain over her dress, very becoming to her marble-white skin. Mr. Belle was greatly exercised for inducing the younger one to enter service in his house. He asked her for a private conversation, to come with him into the adjoining room, which was her bed-room.

Mr. Belle next morning entered the office at nine o'clock, when the two women before mentioned were in the office ; Mr. Belle was on his passage through the office into the adjoining room, and coming up to the younger woman in the black dress, he put his hand on her shoulder, and told her that he wanted to see her at eleven o'clock in his office. Mr. Muller (meaning the deponent) would give her the direction. During the time he was thus speaking to her he played his hand down towards her breast, and then went on his way. The two women approached the bar of the office where I was sitting, and told me : "*Est-ce que M. Belle prend toutes les femmes Françaises pour des putains ?*" *le gros gaillard !* I do not remember the names of these women, but they can be found in the Immigrants' Book. I say that the conduct of Mr. Belle towards these women was indecent in the highest degree.

This must have taken place towards the end of July or commencement of August, because it was very hot. The younger

woman I speak of would not proceed to Mr. Belle's office unless she received five cents to pay the cars. The two women were married, and both they and their husbands, left the Home without having secured a place.

Somewhat later, perhaps some four weeks, I saw the same thing practiced with an unmarried French woman, Mr. Belle placing his hand upon her shoulder, and playing down in an easy way downwards to her breast. She immediately remonstrated to me afterwards, but not in the presence of Mr. Belle. I do not remember now the name of that woman; she returned the next day to Quebec with Madame Ledet. The young woman likewise objecting to Mr. Belle's service. I know this personally.

Miss Léoni Barette walked about the Home in a state of pregnancy; the remark about this was made to me by a great many immigrants. I am quite positive that Miss Léoni Barette was pregnant. This was towards the latter part when I was in the Home, at the end of October, when my attention was drawn to it. I have not seen Miss Léoni Barette since the latter end of October. Madame Barette and daughter are Belgians. I cannot say if she had her husband. She came herself as an immigrant. Concerning the question put to me by the Commissioner why I have used the expression of "recklessness of a libertine." I have nothing more to add to what I have already stated on the subject.

I was present when letters from immigrants were written to their friends at home, complaining of their dissatisfaction with the Immigrants' Home in Montreal; I have seen some of them write such letters every Sunday. I would not prevent them writing them. Letters were thus written every Sunday during all my stay at the Home.

I have read a letter in the hands of Mr. James Thom, Immigration Agent in Quebec, that is at Point Levis, addressed to Mr. Thom, by the Secretary of Colonization in Sherbrooke, in which that gentleman states to Mr. Thom, that all immigrants coming by way of Montreal, complained of the Immigrants' Home there; and he accompanied his letter to Mr. Thom with several letters of im-

migrants complaining against the Home in Montreal ; one immigrant in particular stating that it was no Home at all for any person ; and the Secretary of Colonization in Sherbrooke wanted Mr. Thom to devise means to keep immigrants from coming by way of Montreal. The general conduct of the immigrants at the Home was very good.

When I say that Mr. Belle visits the Home not so much to judge the soup, as the soup-eaters, and treats them with contempt, I mean to say ; that he just steps into the office at noon, wanting to know how many immigrants were in the house. In case he found a large number, he put great pressure upon me and the immigrants in order to make them leave the Home as quick as possible.

When employers came to the Home to hire Immigrants, Mr. Bell's intent was only to put them in any place at all, no matter how unsuitable to the particular business required. In this way he hired out a Parisian writer to Patrick King, a farmer, residing at the head of Parthenais street.

Another time Mr. Belle sent two young Frenchmen to a certain place in the country ; when they arrived there they were not wanted, and returned to the Home, and demanded their expenses of about six dollars and fifty cents, to be paid by the Immigration Agent.

We had in the Home a Flemish family, consisting of nine heads ; and Mr. Belle remarked to me that they had nine mouths, and they must leave the House as quick as possible. He wanted to have them taken by a Canadian farmer from St. Laurent, wrong or right. I was present at the time, when I interferred, and told Mr. Belle to give a little time to find a better place for that family, who had been but two days in the Home, the farmer refused to take them. I found another place for them.

It was ordered by Mr. Belle that dinner tickets should be issued to the immigrants, by which order every immigrant was obliged to present himself at the bar of the office to receive his tickets. To which transaction Mr. Belle made it his business to be present, when he harangued them in all sorts of manners, that

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they should leave the Home, and continued his harangues even during the time they were eating their dinner. I never saw Mr. Belle examining what they were eating.

A man having no place, was told, let this be your last dinner, you must be out of this House. This was said in my presence.

A great number of immigrants complained about the unseemly harangues of Mr. Belle.

I say in my information that some of the immigrants got their tickets unchallenged on account of having special recommendations, preference or favor. This preference was shewn to persons coming with letters of recommendation; and to some by particular favor from Mr. Belle.

Mr. Belle used to call immigrants away from the table for the slightest purpose; for instance a man would come to hire an immigrant, and Mr. Belle would call one or two of the immigrants from the table, or to tell them they would have to do something in his private house.

Mr. Belle's order was that when an immigrant had been once engaged outside, he should not be allowed to return to the Home, nor to receive any meals there, and that he should henceforth look out for himself.

HANS MULLER.

And it being near five o'clock in the afternoon, the deposition of the witness is adjourned till to-morrow, the twenty-eighth of February instant, 1873, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

[Signed,]

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

Attested,]

PETER L. MACDONELL,
Secretary.

FRIDAY, the twenty-eighth of February, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

PRESENT :

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, Q. C.,

Commissioner.

Mr. Piché, Q. C., announces that personal business compels him to absent himself from town, and also that Mr. J. A. A. Belle, Esq., advocate, replaces him to attend to the interests of Mr. Chas. E. Belle.

The Commissioner accepts the proposed substitution, and Mr. J. A. A. Belle takes his seat.

The deposition of the witness, Hans Muller, continues as follows :

There returned from the Eastern Townships a young Scotch immigrant, after having been employed on a farm in the Eastern Townships. I told him that, according to rules, he could not be received any more at the home ; but if he would sit down on a bench in the office, he would soon find another engagement. Shortly afterwards, a farmer came in, and hired him at fair wages. The man who hired him told him to meet him at a certain hotel near the station, at one o'clock. I remarked to the man to take the immigrant right along with him as there was great demand for such men, and he might take another engagement. In reality, because I wanted to evade the jawing of Mr. Belle, if he should see this man. I gave the young man his dinner ticket, telling him if Mr. Belle should notice or observe him, to make him at once acquainted with the fact that he was engaged, and only staying at the Home for one meal. Mr. Belle noticed this man when his plate of soup was just served to him. Learning from the young immigrant that he just returned from the Eastern Townships, Mr. Belle ordered him at once from the table, and Mr. Belle himself chased him out of the Home, raising general indignation amongst all the immigrants on account of this cruel act. There was a general exclamation : " la brute, le sale cochon."

This act was also witnessed by perhaps forty or fifty immigrants. This took place in mid-summer. The fact was also witnessed by a reverend gentleman, the director of the Model Farm of L'Assomption, who immediately after left.

The result of Mr. Belle's visits to the Home consisted of harangues to the immigrants, and to make them accept of any places offered, suitable or unsuitable, to gain his sole object to have them out of the house.

When I say that Mr. Belle possessed all the attributes of a tyrant, I mean to say that he is also a coward, for this reason, that if an immigrant had pluck enough to remonstrate with Mr. Belle on his conduct, he would draw in.

It is to my personal knowledge that Mr. Belle would not pay any attention to applications for immigrants, if there was a chance for hiring the immigrants on the spot; even if the application from the country would have been more advantageous to the immigrant.

Mr. Belle did not pay any attention to the fitness or unfitness of the immigrants, to his liking or disliking of the place; he should accept work to get out of the Home.

I understand the business required in the keeping of a Home, because I sometimes assisted at hotel business. I have not seen the work of an Immigrants' Home before I came to Montreal.

Mrs. Barette and her daughter appeared at the Home about the end of June or the commencement of July.

A Scotchman, of the name of Ross, was appointed guardian of the Home by Mr. Belle. This guardian remained at the Home only a few weeks from his appointment, about the end of June or commencement of July. The house-keeper and this guardian appeared to agree very well together. He was discharged because he took to drink.

After the discharge of this guardian, another one was appointed in his stead; his name was François Desautels, a young

French Canadian, a very good willing man ; but he unfortunately took to drink, and also was discharged. He and the house-keeper used to drink together.

The first and second guardians used to drink with the house-keeper, but I do not think Mr. Belle was aware of it, because I think Mr. Belle would not have allowed any drinking on the premises. I did not tell Mr. Belle, because I did not wish to act as an informer.

Mr. Belle was absent when the house-keeper and the guardian, François Desautels were so thick together at the bottle ; Mr. Belle was most of that time absent at the seaside. This was, to the best of my knowledge, about the beginning of August.

The house-keeper lent sixteen dollars to the guardian Desautels. Mr. Belle was apprised of this circumstance on his return from the seaside by the house-keeper herself. Mr. Belle spoke himself about this money lent by the house-keeper to François ; and to effect the return of this money, he told François Desautels, in my presence, the false story that the money so lent to François by Madame Barette was from moneys given to Madame Barette to defray contingent expenses of the Home—which was an untruth. Mr. Belle afterwards retained this money from François' wages, and paid it over to the house-keeper. I do not know whether François is still in Montreal, but I know that his residence is at Belœil.

I did not hear Mr. Belle make any remonstrance to the house-keeper on her drinking with Desautels, and in drinking with him I cannot say that she was intemperate.

From the moment Madame Barette took the management of the Home as house-keeper, matters went on worse and worse, because she understood nothing at all about keeping a house clean, nor about cooking. She neglected entirely to attend to her business. She busied herself much more in taking in washing for the immigrants for money. Against this I continually remonstrated with Mr. Belle, without success. We had sometimes one hundred and twenty-five immigrants in the House, and I could neither

give them a towel or soap, because Madame Barette was busy washing for the immigrants for money.

By saying that Madame Barette became a fowl fancier, I mean that she kept about fifty fowls to increase the dirt about the yard. These fowls were permitted to run about until I strongly objected to it to Mr. Belle. And he then ordered that about a dozen be sent to his home, and that the rest be confined. These fowls were Madame Barette's private property. This keeping of fowls was decidedly injurious to the cleanliness of the premises. They were afterwards kept in a place in close proximity to the dormitory in the yard, and frequently caused a bad smell in the dormitory.

When I speak of the Immigrants' Laundry kept by Madame Barette, I mean that Madame Barette made it a perfect business of hers to do the washing for the immigrants in the same way as any other washer-woman. For instance, she took the washing from the immigrants and charged them so much a piece. This must have been against the rules of the Home, that is my opinion, but I am not perfectly satisfied about this point.

The wood and soap used by Madame Barette for the washing of the immigrants, were those belonging to the Immigrants' Home. I had no access to the accounts rendered to the Government, I therefore cannot say whether these were charged or not to Government. Mr. Belle was perfectly aware of all those transactions on the part of the house-keeper, as I daily objected to them to Mr. Belle himself. Madame Barette was in the constant habit of thus washing for the immigrants. To my objections Mr. Belle answered that this washing should not be; at the same time he did not put a stop to it. This state of things continued during all the time I remained at the Home. Mr. Belle never gave, in my presence, any orders to Madame Barette to cease this business. This private undertaking of Madame Barette caused her to neglect the business proper of the Home.

* It is to my knowledge that immigrants were asking for soap and towels, and that they could not be procured for them. I could not procure those articles myself because there were none in the premises.

From the time Madame Barette entered the Home until the time, that is, during the space of four months, the straw of the paillasses and bolsters were only changed once, and then not in a thorough manner.

Sometime in September last, a young man came to me in the office at about seven in the morning, and said to me, "come with me, I'll show you my bed," which I found to be full of insect life.

When I speak of the house-keeper as a bad cook, I mean to say that she understands nothing whatever about cooking. The meat and vegetables supplied to the house-keeper would have been of fair quality if she had been watchful that they would always have been so supplied.

HANS MULLER.

The Commissioner adjourns the inquest to Monday, the third March instant, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner

[Attested,]

PETER L. MACDONELL,
Secretary.

MONDAY, the third March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

PRESENT:

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, Q. C.,
Commissioner.

The witness, Hans Muller, continues his deposition, as follows:

The immigrants made frequent complaints of the meals as supplied to them by the house-keeper, the preparations of the same being dirty, and the vessels kept unclean.

By the powers assumed by the house-keeper, I mean that she undertook to order immigrants out of the house, if she had the slightest dispute with them. This is to my personal knowledge ; I know personally of two such cases only ; others were reported to me ; and Mr. Belle would lend his support towards sending away these people on the complaint of the house-keeper.

There was one case of an immigrant of the name of Nicini, and his wife. This took place, I believe in July : after Madame Barette ordered them out, Mr. Belle would afterwards make every effort to have these persons out of the house.

I positively swear that I directed, time and again, Mr. Belle's attention to the laziness, neglect and imperious manner of Madame Barette.

Mr. Belle's answer on the subject was that there was a great deal of business in the house—and he tried to excuse her.

I heard that there was some commotion outside the office, loud laughing, and chatting, and I stepped into the kitchen to enquire what was the matter, when I saw a little girl pointed out to me as being one of the children who had come down and told in her childish way that Mr. Belle had been running upstairs after Mrs. Vancaster. A couple of days after, the husband remonstrated about the matter to me, but not in Mr. Belle's presence ; Mr. Vancaster could not complain before, because he was not in the house himself at the time. It was two or three days after this occurrence that Mrs. Vancaster complained to me that Mr. Belle had made improper propositions to her ; and she added that neither herself nor her husband would enter Mr. Belle's service. Mrs. Vancaster had been about a week in the House at the time ; and she got very sick during her stay there.

Mr. Henry Parotte, a French immigrant, succeeded in getting work with a surveying party, and left his wife during his absence at the Immigrant's Home, invited by Mr. Belle to do so. I also promised him at his departure that I would take care of his wife and little child. The woman was between twenty-two and twenty-five years of age. About four or five days after the

husband's departure with Mr. de Bellefeuille's surveying party in the latter end of June or commencement of July, Madame Parotte stepped into the office and came to me, and communicated that she would leave the Home to-day; against which I remonstrated with all my powers of persuasion. However, she insisted in leaving that day, and she did leave, without means. Mr. Belle came in during the day, and Mrs. Parotte herself informed him that she was leaving the place. She would not stay any longer, said she, and she wanted her baggage brought to the place where she was going to, and that she had not the money to pay for the carter. Mr. Belle handed her, if I am correct about the coin, one half dollar. She would not tell me at the time what was the cause of her leaving the Home. She did not make any complaint at the time to Mr. Belle in my presence.

When I use the words that "I was but a miserable instrument in the criminally farcical humbug of Mr. Belle's immigration agency," I mean to say that I should be instrumental in driving the poor immigrants from the Home without allowing time to place them suitably, and to show them in the evening for their night's rest to the miserable lair which was called their bed, and to listen every day to his overbearing insults to the poor immigrants.

There is a little gate to enter the yard by, which was greatly frequented on Sundays by out-door immigrants calling for their washing done by Madame Barette. I wanted to oblige these immigrants to pass through the passage of the house and not by that gate or door, so as to show up the annoyance of Madame Barette's washing and other business on Sundays, I wanted to get in my possession the key that opened that little gate, I insisted to get that key, Mrs. Barette refused to part with at first, but subsequently gave it up to me.

Mr. Belle was perfectly aware that Madame Barette was washing for immigrants for money.

One Sunday morning, in the month of October last, there arrived about six o'clock, four English immigrants, one sickly lady amongst them, after having been all night in the cars coming

from Quebec, the lady begged of me to let her have a cup of tea as soon as possible; although I requested Madame Barette and also her daughter to provide these people with breakfast, I could not get it for them; and after waiting in vain one hour and a-half at the Home for their breakfast, they left the Home; the sickly lady was entirely exhausted and could not wait any longer. When I reported this to Mr. Belle, he asked me how long did they wait, I told him at least one hour and a-half, and he replied: "Oh! they might have waited a little longer."

Madame Barette remarked to me that if she would have ever to leave the house, I would have to leave it long before her.

My dispute with Madame Barette, was solely on account of my remonstrating with her in reference to the bad management of the internal affairs of the Home.

On the day of my altercation with the house-keeper, Mr. Belle came in at an unusual hour, that is to say about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, some time after the said altercation had taken place. Mr. Belle stepped into the office along with Madame Barette and an immigrant. I then at once said that the immigrant would not be required as a witness as I was to repeat every word I had told Madame Barette a little while ago in the kitchen, I did repeat the same words, and denounced her bad practices still more strongly, and at the same time I told Mr. Belle that I had to compliment him that he presided over the most dirty and filthy institution in all Christendom. Madame Barette was present at the time. Mr. Belle afterwards took me upstairs to show why I did say so, that is to say, to pass with him through the house, to make my assertions good. Arrived in the attic, [then the female department,] I called Mr. Belle's attention to some children's dirt on the floor only wiped over which made the dirt look larger. Stamping my foot on this, I confronted Mr. Belle, and asked him, what do you call this? He then admitted, turning to Madame Barette, that this should not be. Then Mr. Belle wanted me to show him the lice, and I replied that Mr. Belle might look after them himself. We then all three returned to the office; then Mr. Belle informed me that from the moment I should be merely re-

stricted to the operations of the office ; out of the office itself, I should have nothing more to do in the house ; that it was only for Madame Barette to look after the management of the house, and that I had nothing to do in the kitchen, and that Madame Barette's washing did not concern me. Madame Barette had previously said that I was going too often in her kitchen.

Before I commenced to live in the House, indeed a few months after my entry into the Immigration Home, Mr. Belle told me that my presence in the office was most required in the office between twelve and one at noon, and that, therefore, I should take my dinner at the Home, that is the Home dinner. Up to that time, I resided outside the House ; afterwards Mr. Belle informed me that my residing on the premises had become a necessity, and that I should remove to the Home without the least delay, which I did accordingly.

Mr. Belle warned me several times that if I did not bridle in my language towards the house-keeper, he would discharge me.

My language towards Madame Barette was indeed very severe, denouncing her unfitness and general malpractises in the Home.

I swear positively that Madame Barette's speculation in wood and soap for immigrants' washing was entirely overlooked by Mr. Belle.

After the altercation already mentioned, Mr. Belle ordered that from this moment, I could not receive any more the complaints of immigrants, of whatsoever nature they might be, but that they were to be made directly to him.

The house-keeper or cook remained for a little while longer in the office [after the abovementioned altercation was over], and then requested Mr. Belle [plac[ing] her hand upon that of Mr. Belle's] to forbid me also to come into the kitchen under no pretence whatsoever, as I was in the habit of looking, as she said, frequently at the clock. And the cook also added that she would have no objection to my wife going into the kitchen, as she was

quiet enough. These words brought me to my feet, and I said that my wife would not be depending upon her huckstering graces, and that she was but a miserable wretch of an immigrants' sucker." At these words Mr. Belle also sprang to his feet, and ordered me to leave the office; which I did; but hardly arrived in my private apartment, Mr. Belle sent for me to come back to the office, and demanded of me that I should stay till replaced, at least that I should do so for three days, all which I refused to comply with. But I occupied yet my private apartments in the Home for a few days longer. Whilst thus unconnected with the office, Mr. Belle informed me that I should have to remove from the Home forthwith, because, if I was not out of the house by the next morning, he would close the Immigration Home, as Madame Barette had told him that she would not stay another day in the house, if I remained a day longer. I still remained in the Home one day longer.

HANS MULLER.

And it being four o'clock in the afternoon, the Commissioner adjourns the inquest to to-morrow, Tuesday, the fourth March, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

[Attested,]

PETER L. MACDONELL,
Secretary.

TUESDAY, the fourth March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

PRESENT :

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, Q. C.,
Commissioner.

The deposition of the witness, Hans Muller, continues as follows :

*To Mr. St. Pierre.—Question :—*Assuming the management of the Home to have been what it should be, do you consider the accommodation in Montreal for immigrants to be sufficient ?

Answer.—If taken care of with great attention and cleanliness, I consider them sufficient.

The Public Ministry declare, by the mouth of Mr. St. Pierre, that they have no other question to put to the witness.

To Mr. Monk.—Question.—During your entire stay as guardian and book-keeper in the Home, do you swear that the Home proper and all its appurtenances were kept in a general state of filthiness?

Answer.—I do swear that during the time the House was under the management of Mr. and Madame de Milleneuve, the Immigrants' Home was kept in a tolerably good state, but when the said Home came under the management of Madame Barette, very soon the whole establishment came into a state of dirt and filth, and it remained in that state until the time of my departure.

Question.—Do you swear that the straw ticks and bolsters for men were without any covering?

Answer.—Yes.

Question.—Do you swear that the straw-ticks for females were covered merely with a white cotton sheet, and this only for the purpose of hiding the paillasse?

Answer.—Yes.

Question.—Is it a fact that these paillasses and bolsters were generally infested with vermin or not?

Answer.—They were as I already stated.

Question.—How many times were these paillasses changed to your knowledge?

Answer.—I am positive to say that from the time Madame Barette entered the Home, they were only changed once, that is from the commencement of July to the end of October.

Question.—How were the privies kept and how often emptied during your time?

Answer.—They were kept dirty during Madame Barette's management of the Home; and they were never emptied during my entire stay in the place, that is to say, from the month of April until the end of October, when I left.

Question.—When you speak of the immigrants being denied soap and towels, do you speak of this as a fact within your own knowledge?

Answer.—Yes.

Question.—When you speak of the immigrants as having received the least comfort possible at the Home, and that they, the male portion in particular, were treated with neglect, haughtiness, and a harsh manner. Do you state this as a fact within your own knowledge?

Answer.—Yes.

Question.—Was the so-called Immigrants' Home, a Home in fact at all?

Answer.—No.

Question.—Was Mr. Belle either by temper, experience, or manners, competent to superintend such an institution?

Answer.—No.

Question.—Was it a rule in the establishment that a person on making application for an immigrant servant was obliged to make a money deposit in the hands of the superintendent?

Answer.—Not to my knowledge.

Question.—Were you present on any occasion when the superintendent insisted upon and received a deposit of three dollars, or any other sum of money whatever from an applicant at the Home for an immigrant servant, as a consideration for obtaining such servant?

Answer.—No.

Cross-Examined by Mr. Doherty, Q.C.

I am a German by birth, I have been eighteen years in America. I have been brought up to a mercantile business in the State of Michigan. I kept a place of general business at first, and afterwards a little livery stable. I made a living and no more. I do not know when I left the State of Michigan. I do not know how long I lived there. When I left Michigan I came to Montreal, where I did nothing for some time. I then went to Ottawa where I remained about six years, and from Ottawa I came back to Montreal. I was engaged in trade in Ottawa.

Question :—Why did you leave Ottawa ?

Objected to by Mr. St. Pierre, on behalf of the Government, as being illegal. Objection maintained.

I have now been eight or ten years in Montreal since my return from Ottawa. I became connected with Mr. Belle in May, 1870. He engaged me to attend his Immigration Office, in May, 1870, that was at No. 50, St. James street. My duties were to receive immigrants at the station, to conduct them to their respective national Homes. I was engaged in this business for the whole season of that year, that is up to November, 1870. During this time immigrants were taken care of by the Homes of national societies in Montreal. In the month of April, 1872, I returned to Mr. Belle's Immigrant Office, at No. 151, St. Antoine street. There were there then, very few immigrants in the month of April. I entered the Home as clerk to Mr. Belle. I cannot tell what is the frontage or depth of the said old building called the Home ; it is a good middle-sized house. I do not know how old it is, but I consider it an old building ; it appeared to me to have been a fashionable building. The kitchen in the house is small. I do not know who made the kitchen. The room used by the people to wash themselves in is small for an institution of that kind, I do not know whether Mr. Belle had anything to do with the planning of this house. Every part of the said building was made available in the best way we could to accommodate the immigrants. It was not necessary that any confusion should exist if

good order is kept. I became guardian of the premises myself during my stay there. So long as Madame de Milleneuve remained there, the house was tolerably well kept. I was on good terms with both Madame de Milleneuve and Madame Barette when they had attended to the business of the house. I was not always on good terms with Madame de Milleneuve. I was also on good terms with Madame Barette. Madame de Milleneuve left the Home on a certain complaint made by me to Mr. Belle against Mr. de Milleneuve, which caused a quarrel between the latter and myself. Mr. de Milleneuve was discharged on account of a quarrel he had with Mr. Belle. But I distinctly state that Mr. de Milleneuve was not discharged on account of the quarrel he had with me.

The immigrants train generally arrived from seven o'clock in the evening to seven o'clock in the morning, once or twice a week. Those arriving before eleven o'clock were taken to the Home; this happened during the first three or four months of the summer season. Those arrived after midnight were kept at the station until half-past five in the morning. I have seen other travellers, and have myself been detained at the station, but not to be compared to the way immigrants were kept. I do not know that any immigrants remained at the station by choice. The station I speak of is the second class waiting-room in the Bonaventure station.

It was at the Home that the old man mentioned in my examination, wanted water.

I say that the vermin of which I spoke was not imported, but the natural production of the Immigrants' Home; but some of them might have been brought by the immigrants.

When I first went to the Home I heard of no complaints about vermin. It is not necessary that immigrants should be infested with vermin when coming in large bodies, if they keep themselves clean. The immigrants coming to the Home were not equally clean,

When Mr. James Croyle of whom I have spoken in my examination in chief, came back with the immigrant, he stated that I ought to be published for keeping such a lousy Home ; the man was a good man, but he could not keep him on that account.

HANS MULLER.

It being five o'clock in the afternoon, the Commissioner adjourned the inquest until to-morrow, Wednesday, the fifth March instant, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

(Attested,)

PETER L. MACDONELL,
Secretary.

WEDNESDAY, the fifth March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

PRESENT :

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, *Q. C.*
Commissioner.

The cross-questions to the witness, Hans Muller, are continued by—

Mr. DOHERTY.—I can give no idea of the size of the kitchen but I know it is small. I had occasion to go there often to see if the meals would be ready and for different kinds of business of the house, and also to look at the time by the clock. I did not then carry a watch myself. Madame Barette never complained of my going there except at the last.

From May to October, to the best of my knowledge, there had arrived and passed at the Immigrants' Home the number of over two thousand. The names of two thousand at least were entered in the book kept for that purpose.

The dinner would have been good enough had it been properly cooked.

Personally, Mr. Belle and myself had no trouble together while I remained at the Home. My first little difficulty with Mr. Belle, was that he would not give me the five dollars increase of pay until he had communicated with the Government on the subject. On that occasion I used some sharp words to Mr. Belle. My impression is that the blankets were supplied to the Home in the second part of the month of September.

We had not one case of death during the whole season at the Home. When he procured water for the old man, he ordered some person to give a drink to the old man, but the water was never locked out.

The rules of the Home placed on the wall, stated that immigrants should not be kept more than forty-eight hours.

I cannot tell you the reason why about thirty persons were placed in one room, but I found them there. They were kept there from twelve to five in the morning, after a journey of from fifteen to eighteen hours in the cars on their way from Quebec to Montreal. It was not Mr. Belle's fault that they were so long on their way from Quebec to Montreal.

At every arrival of immigrants, they made complaints, on account of the remarkable difference between their reception in Quebec and their reception in Montreal, did not conceive the immigrants unreasonable in their demands on their arrival; but afterwards there was now and then one amongst their number whose demands were unreasonable.

There were none of the immigrants lazy or unwilling to go to work. Some, from incorrect information, demanded higher wages than were allowed here. I conceived this very excusable on their part.

Here Mr. Doherty submits a letter marked W, addressed by the witness Hans Muller, to C. E. Belle, Esq. The witness reads this letter in a loud tone.

I consider this letter to tally perfectly well with my previous evidence. Now, under my solemn oath, I state that this letter was written at the request of Mr. Belle, and he even furthermore dictated the letter. The first man mentioned Leander W. Walraven was ordered out of the Home by Mr. Belle, before he made up his mind to go to work here or not. Louis Sellier came with particular recommendations from Mr. Bossange in Paris to Mr. Belle, and finding things at the Home at such great variance with what he expected, therefore grumbled, and the man had never worked before as a daily laborer. George de Fontgallant, a young nobleman from France, and depending on his mother's aid and support. Nestor de Guy, a commercial man, tried first to get work at his business. This letter was intended to counteract some of Mr. Bossange's complaints against the Immigration Agency in Montreal. This letter was never sent but it was kept as a memorandum for Mr. Belle.

I swear that I saw a letter written by the secretary of colonization at Sherbrooke to Mr. James Thom, Immigration Agent at Point Levis, complaining against the Montreal Immigration Agency, based upon the complaints of Immigrants.

Question.—Have you since your leaving the Home, and being discharged therefrom, stated to any person in Montreal or elsewhere, that you would be revenged on Mr. Belle?

Answer.—I did not, nor did I use language to the effect of wanting revenge.

The young man of whom I spoke of having gone to the Townships was gone three or four weeks before he returned to the Home. I brought my wife to reside with me in the Home in the month of September last. I was obliged to bring my wife there under the circumstances, in order that I might be on the premises during the night. Immediately on my discharge I went to Quebec, but I had remained previously six or seven days at the Home with my wife. Before my wife came I lunched at the House.

I have already said that I remained in the Home until Mr. Belle told me the story that he would close the Home if I did not leave. Mr. Belle could not close the Home even if he wanted, and that is the reason why I considered he told a story, and that he was but the servant of the Government in Quebec.

I believe it was Mr. Belle's duty to enter the names of every immigrant arriving at the Home.

I cannot see the necessity of separating man and wife in such a place as the Home.

Question.—Do you consider it would have been proper for Mr. Belle to have placed, say five or six married couples in the same bed-room or sleeping apartment?

Answer.—Yes, if the room was large enough. The largest sleeping room in the Home, before the folding doors were put in, was longer than the room in which we now sit. I cannot give any idea of this room as to its precise measurement. I think it would comport with common decency to place three married couples to sleep in a room of this size, rather than to see the immigration agent under the *approbrium* of insinuations.

Married couples were perhaps separated sometimes from three to four weeks.

During my stay at the Home, the place was visited by Mr. Secretary Lowe, of Ottawa, and Mr. Deputy Commissioner Lesage, and also by Mr. de Boucherville.

On Mr. Lowe's visit to the Home, I told the gentleman a story when I brought him up to the attic, where the apartments were found dirty, not made up, and in a state of confusion, at three o'clock in the afternoon. This was I believe in the month of July. By the word story, I mean that I told Mr. Lowe an untruth, in excuse for the dirty state of the above mentioned rooms; the untruth consisted in that I stated "that the reason why he found the rooms in such confusion, was that alterations were to be made to the rooms, which was not the case"; this was as an excuse for the Home.

HANS MULLER.

The Commissioner adjourned the inquest until to-morrow, Thursday, the sixth instant, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

(Attested,)

PETER L. MACDONELL,
Secretary.

THURSDAY, the sixth March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

PRESENT :

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, *Q. C.*,
Commissioner

The cross-questions to the witness Muller are continued by—
M. Doherty, Q. C.

I have already stated that I told Mr. Lowe an untruth, and by that I mean a variation from the real state of affairs.

Question—What is the difference in your notions of ethics and morality, between an untruth and a lie.

Answer—I have nothing more to add to my explanations already given.

When I said that Mr. Belle would not attend to applications from the country when there was a chance of placing immigrants in the city, I mean to say it was to save the passage money.

In saying that Ross and Desantels, the two guardians went into the habit of drinking, I do not mean to say that that was Mr. Belle's fault. In saying that I did not wish to be an informer, I mean to say that I did not want to be an informer against my colleagues ; but immediately after my discharge, I made the information. I would have made that information, discharged or not discharged, about that time.

I said there was about one-half hundred fowls at one time in the Home. I do not know whether they laid eggs or not. I never got an egg from Madame Barette's fowls. These fowls were not fouler than other people's fowls. I kept fowls myself in my life; and they were just like these.

When I complained to Mr. Belle of children's dirt and that Madame Barette refused me soap, his reply was that those things should not be.

On one occasion a young man complained of vermin in his bed; I communicated this fact to Mr. Belle as soon as he came; and after he convinced himself of the fact, he ordered the bed to be thrown in the yard. Upon another occasion when Mr. Belle asked me to shew him the vermin, I told him to look out for them himself.

The breakfast hour was between seven and eight in the morning. Mr. Belle warned me several times that if I continued to use such language as I had already used to the cook he would discharge me.

To Mr. A. A. Belle, being shewn a printed placard marked P. P., I recognize it as the rules and regulations posted up on the walls of the Home.

I remember that Mr. Belle was absent last summer from the city of Montreal. He was replaced in his functions by Archille Belle, Esquire, his nephew now present. I saw Mr. A. Belle paying every day one or two visits to the house.

The Commissioner here addressing himself to Mr. A. Belle, advocate, asked him if he would be called as a witness in this enquiry.

Mr. A. Belle, in reply, said he thought he would be called as a witness in this enquiry.

The Commissioner then remarked that in that case he could not be the advocate and the witness at the same time.

Mr. Doherty, Q. C., maintained that neither he nor Mr. Belle were present in their quality of advocate, but only as the friends of the immigration agent. This enquiry was not being conducted before a regular Court of Justice.

Mr. St. Pierre replied, in the name of the Public Minister, that the Commission had all the qualities of a Court of Justice, he assimilated the enquiry to the *enquêtes* held by the Coroner.

The Commissioner decides that Mr. Doherty and Mr. A. Belle are present as advocates only, and not as the friends of Mr. Chas. E. Belle.

Mr. A. Belle again maintain's that the present enquiry being administrative, he is in no way prohibited from being heard as a witness, although acting at the same time as the advocate.

The Commissioner repeats what he has already said ; that this enquiry cannot be assimilated to a Criminal Court. He said to Mr. A. Belle that he could if he liked, continue to act as the advocate, but when he was examined as a witness, he the said Commissioner would hear his evidence with every reservation, and that he would communicate the particular circumstances of this incident to the Government, who would dispose of it as they thought proper. The Commissioner added that if Messrs. Doherty and Belle were not present in their quality as advocates, he would not permit them to exercise their functions as advocates before him.

The cross-examination was then proceeded with as follows :

I believe Mr. Belle told me that during his absence he would be replaced by Mr. Archille Belle. This was I believe about the month of August. Mr. Belle was absent from two to three weeks, I think the whole time of Mr. Belle's absences was in August.

During that time I attended the office. Desautels was the guardian, Madame Barette, the house-keeper, and Madame Barette's daughter, the common servant. These four persons completed the personel of the establishment. For my part I was very much occupied the whole day, my occupation keeping me

constantly in the office. I cannot say as much for the others for that reason.

During Mr. C. E. Belle's absence, Mr. A. Belle and myself agreed very well together. Mr. A. Belle, when coming into the office generally asked me if everything was going all right. I believe I stated to Mr. A. Belle that things were going right or wrong, according to circumstances. I think that if I told Mr. A. Belle that anything was going wrong, he would assist me to mend it. I remember that a very large number of immigrants came in during Mr. C. E. Belle's absence.

Every immigrant that came during the month of August could be placed if he fitted himself to the applications.

It is possible that Immigrants came here during the said month who had trades or professions, which were not called for at the moment.

Two immigrants, of the name of Brun and Ledieux, during the same month, who were at the time, in France, commercial men, and had told Mr. Bossange, the Immigration Agent in Paris, that they were emigrating to Canada where they would be farmers. It was more difficult to place these than others. The Immigrants' Home was now and then visited by immigrants of the same description. During the said month I do not think that many immigrants came with whom it was difficult to deal, but there always will be people who are not as easy pleased as others.

Question.—Is it not a fact that during Mr. C. E. Belle's absence there were several immigrants with whom it was extremely difficult to deal?

Answer.—There were several Immigrants with whom it was difficult to deal for certain reasons.

Question.—Was it not difficult to deal with certain immigrants because they were unwilling to go to work?

Answer.—They were all willing to work, to my knowledge.

Question.—Did you not report to Mr. A. Belle three immigrants as unwilling to go to work, of the names of Papa, Gigot and Jagni?

Answer.—These three men were willing to work at work of their liking. I am not sure that these men were gardeners; they were laborers.

All I recollect of those men is that they were sent to Messrs. Cameron and Edwards, at Thurso, Ontario.

Of those three men mentioned, I recollect no more than I have already stated.

From the time I entered, up to the time I took my wife there, that is in September, I attended principally the office.

I do not remember having told Mr. A. Belle whether the house was badly managed or not. I do not think I made any complaints about the servants of the Home, and the way they fulfilled their respective duties. During the time I acted as clerk at the Home, I remained in the Home, frequently as late as ten o'clock at night, but not during the night. Strangers visited the office principally, and but few went through the Home. I saw the Anglican Bishop with an attendant in the office, who had come to visit the house, but I do not know if they did or not, for Mr. Belle himself attended to him himself. This was at the commencement of the Summer. Immigrants were expected to contribute to the service in the Home.

Although it was not the rule that immigrants should come back to the Home after having left it, yet a good number of them came back and were received at the Home and placed again. I tasted some of Madame Barette's cooking; when I lunched there, the lunch was provided by the Home.

The man and his wife who were ordered away by Madame Barette were named Nisini, and are the same I spoke of in my examination-in-chief. They remained about ten days before they left. The husband was provided with a situation when he left.

I borrowed money myself from Madame Barette.

I stated in my examination-in-chief that I could point out the names, if shown the book of entry, of the two women who made the remark about Mr. Belle's gallantry to French women. Being shown the said book of entry, I now say that their names were Marie Gauthrie, wife of Théodore Gauthrie, and Marie Passont, wife of Monsier Passor'. These women were sisters-in-law, and both without children. These women are the identical women I swore in my examination-in-chief I could point the names of in the book, if it was shown me.

Being shown the pass-book, I now give the names of Madame Ledet, Mademoiselle Léon Camille, as being the persons to whom I gave a pass to return to Quebec, and the latter is the one of whom I speak in my examination-in-chief as being the party upon whose shoulders Mr. Belle had played with his hand, and whom Mr. Belle wished to hire as a servant. I afterwards gave a pass to this Miss Léon Camille's sweetheart to return to Quebec at the same time. This sweetheart was also an immigrant.

I do not remember of French immigrants complaining of meals because they had no allowance of wine; I remember that Mr. A. Belle reprov'd certain immigrants for having introduced beer in the House, and he gave me strict orders that the thing should not happen any more.

HANS MULLER.

Messrs. Doherty and Belle here declare that they have no other cross-questions to put to the witness Hans Muller; and the Commissioner declares the hearing of this witness terminated, and he adjourns the *enquête* to to-morrow, Friday, the 7th of March instant, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

[Attested,]

PETER L. MACDONELL,
Secretary.

FRIDAY, the seventh day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

PRESENT :

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, *Q. C.*,

Commissioner.

The high constable submits his certificate of return, to the effect that he served subpoenas on Messrs. Parotte and Monier, speaking to them in person, and to Messrs. Parotte and Monier, by leaving in the hands of reasonable members of their families.

HENRI PAROTTE, conductor of works, aged thirty-eight years, now of the City of Montreal, after oath administered upon the Holy Evangelists, doth depose and say :

I was born in Paris, France. I arrived in Montreal with my wife and child on the eighth of June last. I was with a number of other emigrants. On our arrival we went down immediately to No. 151, St. Antoine street, to the Emigration Home, of which Mr. Belle was then the agent. I had never before seen Mr. Belle, but I had a particular letter for Mr. Belle. I lived at the Emigration Home from the eighth of June to the second of July exclusively. My wife and child lived at the Home for five or six days after I had left it. During the time we were at the Home we occupied a room in common. I am the same person who wrote to the Government of Quebec upon the subject of immigration. The letter shewn to me marked C, was written by me, and bears my signature.

The Secretary here read the said letter.

To Mr. Monk.—I left the Home the 2nd July, 1872. I have not lived in it since, but I have had occasion to go there once or twice on business. During my absence I had news by letter twice from my wife, but I returned only at the end of my engagement. I found my wife living at Mr. Judah's, Canning street, a large proprietor. My wife had left the Home, and in her second letter she told me she was living in Canning street. When

she wrote to me the second time, she said she had left the Home of her own free will.

As to the food given at the Home, tastes so much differ, that it might be found good by some and bad by others; as to myself personally, I found it bad. I cannot say too much upon the subject of the cleanliness or the uncleanness of the Home. Too many people go to it; but as for the litters (*litière*.) and the beds, they contained lice. It is impossible on board a vessel, with more than a thousand emigrants, that uncleanness should not exist, but those who wished to take care of their person could pass through without vermin, and I had no vermin on my person, when I entered the Home. I have nothing to repeat upon the manner in which the Home is conducted.

To Mr. St. Pierre.—While I was at the Home I absented myself during the day time; though I took my meals and slept at the Home. My only knowledge of the Home is from the food they gave us, and the beds provided for immigrants. I wrote to my wife from Ste. Thérèse; before my wife received that letter she had written a letter which reached me at St. Scholastique. She informed me that she had left the Home because they had ceased to respect her.

I was then a sistant engineer on the Northern Colonization Railroad. I left my wife at the Home, because I had not the means to send her to a boarding house. She had to wait until I could send her some money. When I left the office of Crown Lands, I explained to Mr. Belle that I was much troubled about a lodging for my wife; and that I had only an hour or two to look for one. Mr. Belle told me to leave her at the home as it would not incommode them. I agreed to allow her to remain until I was in a position to place her elsewhere. From the 22nd of June to the 2nd of July, I was employed in the office of the Crown Lands Department, of which Mr. Belle is the agent, Mr. Belle never asked me to engage my wife in his service.

I am asked if I had spoken to Mr. Belle, since my return upon the cause of which my wife left the Emigration Home. I answer that I have not seen Mr. Belle since I left Montreal, nor did I look for him.

The reception given to emigrants at the Emigration Home at Quebec, is excellent.

Question.—If the Emigration Home at Montreal was as well kept as that at Quebec, do you think it would afford a refuge for emigrants that would satisfy them.

Answer.—Yes, if it corresponded to it in every particular.

Cross-examined.

To Mr. Doherty.—I returned on the 5th August, from my surveying expedition.

And further witness saith not, and hath signed.

Acknowledged before me, at Montreal, }
this 6th March, 1873. }

H. PAROTTE.

Commissioⁿer.

LOUISE CHARLOTTE DESAINT, wife of Henry Parotte, of the city of Montreal, being duly sworn, doth depose and say :

I am the wife of Mr. Henry Parotte, who has just been examined.

I arrived in Montreal about the 9th of June, with my husband and my little girl. We were with other emigrants. Upon our arrival we went direct to the Immigration Home, St. Antoine street, of which Mr. Belle was the agent. I remained three weeks at the Home. I remained five days at the Home after my husband had left it.

To Mr. Monk.—I left the Home at eleven o'clock in the morning. I left because I was teased and beset by Mr. Belle, who wished me to go and see him at his office St. James Street, which I refused to do. Mr. Belle gave me several tickets for the city street cars. On the day I left the Home, Mr. Belle asked me my reason for leaving. I told him that he could not be ignorant of my reason.

To the Commissioner — During the time I was at the Emigration Home I did some of the house-work. Mr. Milleneuve and his wife were then the managers of the Home. While I was at the Home Mr. Belle followed me every where, he followed me into the rooms, and even into my own. I occupied at the time a room alone with my husband. I told Mr. Belle I did not care to speak to him. I have returned several times since to the Emigration Home, and Mr. Belle asked me, why I wouldn't go to his office. Mr. Belle never asked me to live with him in any capacity. Mr. Belle never made me any proposal that I did not answer on the moment of his asking it. Mr. Belle did not at any time make any indecent proposal to me. I wrote to my husband during his absence, complaining of Mr. Belle's conduct towards me. What I then wrote to him was the truth. Mr. Belle did not feel my person indecently; only once while visiting the rooms on the first story, in which were the men's beds, he wished me to go in, stating that he had something to say to me. I did not wish to go in.

The room referred to by me, as having been occupied by my husband and myself, I occupied alone after he had left on his expedition. Mr. Belle did not fix any hour for me to visit him at his office. I knew from Mr. Belle because he asked for me every time he visited the Home, no matter at what hour, and he came to my room.

From Mr. Belle's conduct towards me, I inferred that he wished to make love to me; it was for this reason that I avoided him. Each time Mr. Belle came during the five days, he teased me to go and see him at his office in St. Jacques Street. I went twice on errands to his office, but at the time my husband was at the Home and employed in the office in St. Jacques Street. I went there one day about noon to conduct a young girl who did not know where Mr. Belle lived. Mr. Belle never asked me to be his mistress, but all he did was with that object. Mr. Belle told me he did not wish to take me by force. He said this at the Emigration Home in a little passage in the rear of the house and near the yard. There were several persons in the vicinity, but no person in the passage. This occurred about half-past four

o'clock in the afternoon. It was the first time he used these words to me. He said I would know from him his reason for having used those words when he called me. Already before my husband had left, I had anticipated Mr. Belle's attention to me. I took these civilities at the beginning for mere politeness; after my husband's departure these attentions became more pressing. It was in consequence of these constant attentions from Mr. Belle that I left the Home. I accepted three city passenger railway tickets given to me by Mr. Belle to go to his office in St. Jacques Street. I accepted these tickets because he teased me constantly to go to his office. I always answered him "Yes," but I never went. When I took the tickets I had no intention of going. I had then with me a little child of fourteen months. On leaving the Home I went to live with Mr. Judah's Gardener, in Canning Street. The gardeners are French people who arrived shortly after us. I knew them at the Emigration Home; it was at their house I sought shelter. When I arrived in Canning Street, I had not a sou, and Mr. Belle who I made aware of my destitution gave me half-a-dollar for portorage money. I told Mr. Belle my reason for leaving the Home, but I did not tell Mr. Muller who asked me. When I told Mr. Belle my reason for leaving the Home, he said I would regret it. He did not try very hard to keep me. I had decided to go and my trunks were already on the side-walk. Mr. Belle did not promise me anything, at any time, if I went to his office in St. Jacques Street, nor did he make any threat to put me out. The Home was far from being cleanly kept. One day when I was living in Canning Street, I went to the Home with some work for Mr. Muller; Mr. Belle seeing me bare-headed offered to buy me a bonnet. I answered him saying that I had one at home.

One day my child being ill, (I then resided in Canning street,) I went to Mr. Belle with a letter which I had received from my husband, informing me that if I was in need of money I might apply to him. I asked to borrow some money from him, saying I was informed he had an agreement, by which my husband was to pay the money back on his return, Mr. Belle said "I do not lend money, I give it. You ought not to have left the

Emigration Home." He did not give me any money, nor did he offer me any.

I often did the cooking during my stay at the Emigration Home, Mr. Belle said he would pay me for this work, but he did not do so

I returned to the Home three or four times, after having left it, to carry some linen I had bleached for Mr. Muller.

Cross-examined.

To Mr. A. Belle.—The people to whose house I went on leaving the Home, are gardeners, and are called Barthelemy.

And further witness saith not, and hath signed her present deposition.

LOUISE DESAINT,

F. Parotte.

The Commissioner adjourns the enquiry until Monday next, the tenth day of March instant, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

(Attested.)

PETER L. MACDONELL,

Secretary.

MONDAY, the tenth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

PRESENT :

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, Q. C.,

Commissioner.

GUSTAVE JOSEPH VANCASTER, of the City of Montreal, having been duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, doth depose and say :

To the Commissioner.—My name is Joseph Vancaester, at present of the City of Montreal, and I am thirty-one years of age. I was employed in the Police Force, and I am now without employment. I am of Belgian origin, and in my own country I was a farmer. I arrived at Quebec on the 17th of August last. I was sent by Mr. Richard Berns, of Anvers, I was the bearer of a letter of recommendation to Mr. Lesage, at Quebec. I arrived at Montreal two or three days later, when I went without delay to the Emigration Home. I knew Mr. Belle, he was then Emigration Agent. My wife was with me and we had no children. I left the same day for Varennes with my wife, and we went to live with a Mr. Félix Lussier. My wife lived there four or five days, when she fell seriously ill, and we took her to the hospital kept by the Grey Nuns at Varennes. I remained at Varennes until the second of September. I worked in the fields during all the time I lived with Mr. Lussier. I left Mr. Lussier's service because my wife was too ill to do his work. Mr. Lussier advised me to go to Montreal, that it would be better for my wife and myself. On my arrival I went to the Emigration Home, with my wife, and we had intended to remain but one day, because Mr. Barnard was bound to get us a place with his brother, Mr. E. Barnard. This was on the 2nd September. We entered the Emigration Home on Monday, and left it the following Saturday, to go to College street, No. 31, where we had hired a room. I was then without employment, and remained so for four or five days. I next worked on the wharves for three or four days, at the end of which time I was employed in the police force. I joined the police on the 14th of September, and I was discharged on the 22nd January, 1873, and since that time I have been without employment. My means of support are extremely small. In the month of December last I made a complaint in writing to the Government against C. E. Belle, Emigration Agent.

A letter is shewn to me, dated 9th December, 1872, marked D. I recognize it as my letter, and it bears my signature.

The reasons for which I complained to the Government were because Mr. Belle allowed my wife to be grossly insulted. One evening in the month of November, I was at home conversing

with my wife upon the subject of the Emigration Home. I asked her why she so stubbornly refused to go into Mr. Belle's service. It was then she explained to me that she had a serious grievance against Mr. Belle. I had been vaguely informed of these things during the time I was at the Emigration Home, without knowing their importance, and believing it to be a frivolous enquiry. One day I remarked to Mr. Belle, (it was in the month of September,) why he always sought the company of my wife. He said he would not receive any observations either from me, or any body else. From the second to the eighth, Mr. Belle had intended to engage us, my wife and myself in his service, I as coachman and my wife as cook. We were engaged at \$16 a month for both. The Saturday on which we were to enter Mr. Belle's service, my wife wished at all cost to leave the Emigration Home. The Friday preceding, Mr. Belle, who was on the point of leaving for Quebec, said to us, if we were not at his home on the Monday morning, he would turn us into the streets. We did not enter into Mr. Belle's employ because his wife positively refused to allow us. She said she would explain to me later. We then went to College street.

To Mr. Monk.—In the month of November, my wife told me that Mr. Belle had ignominiously persecuted her as well upon the stairs as in her own room.

Objected to by Mr. Doherty, Q. C., of Counsel for Mr. Belle, on the ground that this evidence is *mere* heresay and illegal.

Objection reserved.

My wife was very excited while she related this to me. One day during my stay at the Home. I saw Mr. Belle on the stairs leading to the upper story, pinch my wife's figure. It was upon this the second time, that I was compelled to make the observations, above mentioned, to Mr. Belle. One day while I was sleeping with my wife during the day time, Mr. Belle came into our room and called my wife, saying that he wished to speak with her alone. Madame Vancaster went to see him outside of the room, but I could see nothing. She was only absent about five minutes, and on her return she was excessively excited but said nothing to

me. That same day I went down, and Mr. Belle was waiting for the street cars. It was then I asked him why he sought for my wife's society more than mine, and he made me the answer already given. During my sojourn at the Emigration Home, it was in a state of great uncleanness. When we arrived at Varennes our linen was very clean, and on leaving the Emigration Home our linen was covered with vermin. There were no quilts on the beds; the beds in the privileged rooms had sheets. The men's beds in the hangard had no quilts of any kind. The kitchen was badly managed, the meals badly cooked and uncleanly prepared. There was only one wash-room in which the men and the women washed together, if they happened to meet. We never had any towels, and soap only at times, the emigrants were obliged to use their own towels when they had any. The emigrants had to pay for their clothes bleaching. I have seen the daughter of the cook, Madame Barette, claim money from the emigrants for bleaching. Mr. Belle treated the emigrants with arrogance and contempt. All the emigrants without distinction, complained of the Emigration Home. Some of these complaints were made in my presence, as well in the kitchen as in the office. I know personally that several emigrants were compelled to leave the country because they were badly placed.

To the Commissioner.—It is quite possible that there were amongst them, some, who were too exacting, but the greater part of them were only desirous of getting a position.

To Mr. St. Pierre.—Mr. Lesage kept the letter of recommendation I brought with me from Europe.

I am convinced that I was discharged from the Police Force through the interposition of Mr. Belle, because, on the 20th January, while I was at my post as a policeman in St. Lawrence street, Mr. Lafon, a detective, took me to Mr. Belle's office, No. 50 St. Jacques street, C. A. D., to the Crown Land office. Mr. Belle, was then in his office with another person, who said he was an emigrant, and pretended to have crossed in the same ship with Parotte and his wife. At Mr. Belle's request, Mr. Lafon read an affidavit to me, made by this pretended emigrant, whose name

was not mentioned, and whom I had never before seen, and whom I have not since seen.

Question.—You have just stated that the affidavit in question is not in your possession, you also say that it is impossible, as far as you know, for you to obtain it, you also add that Mr. Belle kept possession of this affidavit. Will you please state what was the tenor of that document?

Objected to on behalf of Mr. Belle by Mr. Doherty, inasmuch as parole proof of the contents of any writing cannot be made or recovered legally unless the witness has sworn, or it has been otherwise legally established, that diligent search has been made for the said writing, and that it cannot be found.

Objection reserved.

The tenor of this affidavit was, that Madame Parotte was a woman of light conduct, and that he the deponent could have had criminal relations with this woman. That is the substance or nearly so, of the affidavit in question.

Mr. Belle said to me, that if I would not withdraw the complaint I had sent against Mr. Belle, to Mr. Lesage, of Quebec, that although he had nothing to say against my wife he would always find means to prove something in the meantime. The individual who had made the affidavit being in the office said it was better to be on the side of the strong, and the conversation to induce me to withdraw my complaint continued between Mr. Belle and Mr. Lafon, and myself. I then went away with Mr. Lafon. On the morrow, the 21st, a policeman came to me on my beat in St. Lawrence street, and said that I had to appear before the Chief of Police, who had sent for me for that purpose. I went immediately before the Chief of Police, Mr. Penton, at the Jacques Cartier Station. I found the Chief of Police in a great rage against me. He said if I would not withdraw the complaint made by me against Mr. Belle, I would be dismissed from my office. "You must know well comradi, he said, that it is not with the uniform you now wear you will continue your complaint."

My answer was, "Well—Mr. Chief, I will take it off;" and Mr. Penton replied, "Take it off then." I then proceeded to take off my uniform when Mr. Lafon intervened to pacify us.

The evidence of this witness is continued until the morrow, and he hath signed, having first read the same.

VANCASTER, GUSTAVE.

The Commissioner adjourns the enquiry until Tuesday, the eleventh day of March instant, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

(Attested,)

PETER L. MACDONELL,
Secretary.

TUESDAY, the eleventh day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

The examination of the witness G. Vancaster is continued:

To Mr. St. Pierre.—I cannot state if the affidavit of which I have already spoken was sworn to, or not. It was read over to me—that's all. When they read over to me the affidavit in question, I thought it was done to make me abandon my complaint. Evidently from the arguments urged by them I understood it was to make me withdraw my complaint.

I was discharged from the Police Force by the order of Chief Penton. The 22nd January last, I was at my post in St. Lawrence street, when a policeman came to me and said I should return to the station. Then Police Sergeant Augers, said to me "Vancaster you are discharged." I asked the reasons for my discharge, but they refused to give me any. I also asked for the order in writing and they again refused to give me any satisfaction.

Since my discharge, no person has solicited me to withdraw my complaint. The first complaint I sent to the Government was in the form of a letter as it appears by the record. Ten or twelve days later, I drew up the same complaint under oath, in the form of an affidavit. It was during the month of December that I made the affidavit, and it was on the 20th or 21st of January as I have above stated, that I went to Mr. Belle's office. It is to my knowledge that the same steps were taken to induce my wife to withdraw her complaint, my wife and myself made oath to the affidavit now produced. I have in my possession an affidavit sworn to and signed by myself and my wife. It is the affidavit made to my knowledge by my wife or myself upon this subject.

Question.—Please produce this affidavit.

Answer.—I here produce it, and mark it with the letter L.

The Counsel, on behalf of Mr. Belle, objects to the production of this an *ex parte* affidavit, made privately over two months ago, inasmuch as the deponent who then made it is now here present under examination, and his knowledge of the alleged facts should be taken from him personally.

Objection reserved.

I know that since the 22nd January a petition in favor of Mr. Belle, as Emigration Agent, has been in circulation. They wished to make all the emigrants sign it who were willing to do so. I do not know this fact personally.

Cross-Examined.

To Mr. A. Belle.—It was in the month of November my wife told me she had been insulted by Mr. Belle. I sent my letter of complaint to Mr. Lesage, on the 9th of December. I made that complaint of my own free will, and without having been solicited by any person. Between the time I left the Immigration Home and the writing of my letter to Mr. Lesage, I did not communicate my business upon this subject to any person. When my wife made me acquainted with the affair, we decided of one accord to

write to Mr. Lesage. Before writing, however to Mr. Lesage, we, (my wife and myself) consulted together. It was after having written to Mr. Lesage, that my wife and I made the affidavit which I have produced. No person asked us to make this affidavit. I did not write the affidavit. I had it written by others. It was written from my dictation by Mr. Hans Muller, a witness already examined in this cause.

After Mr. Muller had written the affidavit from my dictation, I requested the said Hans Muller to send a magistrate to my house to take my wife's oath and my own. I sent for the magistrate because my wife was a little ill, too ill to go out of doors. Mr. Muller went for the magistrate and came with the magistrate to my house. I do not know if Mr. Muller went for the magistrate in a vehicle nor do I know if he returned with the magistrate in a vehicle. I did not give Mr. Muller any money to get a vehicle for the magistrate. I did not pay Mr. Muller any thing for drafting the affidavit in question.

I paid Mr. Muller a visit in the month of December last (after I had sent the letter to Mr. Lesage,) and I invited Mr. Muller to visit me. It was upon that visit I requested Mr. Muller to send me a Magistrate. The affidavit in question was written at my house. When I visited Mr. Muller I did not know that he had left the Emigration Home.

Before visiting Mr. Muller I did not go to the Emigration Home, but I applied to a Mr. Boudinot who gave me Mr. Muller's address.

When I left the Emigration Home I believe that Mr. Muller was still there with his wife.

Question.—What have been your means of livelihood since you left the Police Force ?

Answer.—As I have already stated my means have been extremely small. I had a gold watch which I sold to meet contingencies. By economy I have been able to supply my wants up to the present.

My wife's name is Louise Delplace.

Question.—Where did you marry with Louise Delplace?

The question is objected to by Mr. St. Pierre, Advocate, representing the Public Minister on the ground that it tends to incriminate the witness.

The objection is not maintained by the Commissioner, and the witness is called upon to answer.

Answer.—I refuse to answer this question, and to answer any question submitted to me, relating to circumstance anterior to my arrival at Quebec.

I came to America first in 1865. I returned to Belgium in 1870. During my sojourn in the United States I lived in different States, I lived for a certain time at Green Bay in Wisconsin.

Question.—Were you not married when you lived at Green Bay in Wisconsin?

Answer.—No. Nor in any other part of the State. I did not get married in the United States.

Question.—Did you never get married.

Answer.—I am married.

Question.—Did you ever marry a person of the name of Marie Joseph Martin or Martine?

Answer.—No.

Question.—Did you never marry with Marie Joseph Martin before a Missionary named Croute, in Wisconsin, in the United States of North America?

Answer.—I was deceived by the said Marie Joseph Martin and by the said Croute but not married.

Question.—Did you not when in Belgium, and wishing to get married in Belgium, maintain that the first marriage in Wis-

consin by which you were united to one named Martin (Marie-Joseph) was null, having been celebrated by a missionary named Croute, without other formality ?

Answer.—I refuse to answer that question, because it is one relating to what transpired in Europe.

The witness signs to-day's deposition, and he is called upon to appear at the same hour to-morrow afternoon, at two o'clock.

Vancouver, Gustave.—The commissioner adjourns this enquiry to to-morrow, the twelfth day of March instant, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

(Attested,)

PETER L. MACDONELL,
Secretary.

WEDNESDAY, the twelfth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

PRESENT :

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, Q. C.,
Commissioner.

At the request of the parties' attorneys representing Mr. Belle, this enquiry is adjourned until Monday, the seventeenth day of March instant, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

(Attested,)

PETER L. MACDONELL,
Secretary.

MONDAY, the seventeenth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

PRESENT :

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, Q. C.,

Commissioner.

JOSEPH FERREOL DUBREUIL is sworn as Secretary *pro tempore*.

The examination of the witness Vancaster is continued :

It was myself who wrote the letter containing my complaint and sent by me to the Government. That letter was addressed to Mr. Lesage. I did not give any person communication of the letter before sending it. I did not communicate to any person, before sending the letter, that it was my intention to complain. I had the address of Mr. Lesage at Quebec myself. I, myself, posted this letter. I did not give it to Mr. Muller to forward to the Government for me. I was by no means informed of the fact that Muller and Parotte had written to the Government at the same time as I did. I cannot in any way explain how the three complaints were sent at the same time to the Government, seeing that I was not at all in correspondence with them when I wrote to the Government. I swear positively that when I sent my complaint to the Government I was not in correspondence with any body.

Question.—How does it happen, if you were not then in correspondence with Muller and Parotte, and that you yourself put your letter in the post-office without speaking to the other two, that your letter and that of Parotte reached Mr. Lesage's hands in the department, and a letter written and sent by Mr. Hans Muller to Mr. Lesage.

Answer.—It is a fact of which I am ignorant. It may be to my wife's knowledge, but not to mine. After having sworn to the affidavit above mentioned, the Magistrate and Muller left the house together. Muller returned to my house on another occasion

to return my visit made to him. I did not send the affidavit in question to the Government. I left it here as a proof in case I should leave the Province. I do not know if this affidavit is the same as that acknowledged by Louisa Delplace before the Police Committee because I was not present when she made her deposition.

Question.—Did this affidavit always remain in your possession?

Answer.—No. I gave it to Mr. Muller shortly after I made it in case I left the country. I did not make another affidavit than the one in question.

Question.—Did you not place this affidavit in Mr. Muller's hands for the purpose of allowing him to shew it to his friends, to the editors of newspapers and to other persons?

Answer.—I did not give it to Mr. Muller with that object.

Question.—Is it not to your knowledge that this affidavit was circulated in the city before either the government or the accused had communication of it?

Answer.—I do not know it. I can add that I did not in any way communicate to Mr. Muller the secret of this affidavit.

Question.—Did you not leave Mr. Muller free to communicate this affidavit to whoever he pleased?

Answer.—I said nothing to Mr. Muller on this subject, neither for or against, nor in one sense nor in the other.

Question.—Do you not know that Mr. Muller circulated this affidavit to induce certain persons to subscribe to a fund to support you and to push this charge?

Answer.—I do not know anything of this.

Question.—Do you know the other witnesses who are to appear in this enquiry?

Answer.—Very little.

Question.—Name those of the witnesses whom you know ?

Answer.—I know certain names by the meetings that were held, and the protestations and manifestations against Mr. Belle. I went once to one of these meetings in St. Antoine street. It was the second meeting held.

Question.—Have not meetings been held at your house of several persons who pretended to have complaints against Mr. Belle ?

Answer.—Many persons came to my house. We spoke of this subject as of any other, but not with the object of holding meetings for that purpose.

Question.—Was it at Green Bay, in Wisconsin, United States of America, that you became affianced, but not married to Marie Joseph Martin before the Missionary Croute ?

The question is objected to by Mr. St. Pierre.

Objection dismissed.

Answer.—It was not at Green Bay, but at Dexville, County of Karvaunce, state of Wisconsin, that I was affianced.

Question.—Did you co-habit with the said Marie Joseph Martin ?

Answer.—Having been told by the Commissioner that I am not obliged to answer that question, I refuse to answer it.

Question.—Have you not had a child with the said Martin ?

Answer.—The Commissioner informs me that I am not obliged to answer that question. I therefore refuse to answer it.

I am not aware that a subscription has been opened for me in Montreal.

Question.—If a subscription has been made for you in Montreal, have you received the amount ?

Answer.—If I have received anything I would not deny its existence? I returned twice to the Emigration Home to make enquiry about some letters, and that was during the absence of Mr. Belle. I have not returned to the Emigration Home since I left it, to ask for food. Once, of the twice above mentioned, the cook, Madame Barrette, wanted me to take a cup of coffee with her in the kitchen. I accepted, but did not eat anything.

Question.—Have you not stated in the presence of several persons that Louisa Delplace only acted in this affair through the solicitations of Muller and a public officer?

Answer.—No. Never. I myself did not act under these solicitations.

Question.—Are the facts mentioned in the affidavit in question personally known to you?

Answer.—I have a personal knowledge of some of these facts, others are to my wife's knowledge, who made an affidavit at the same time as myself.

Re-examined by Mr. Monk.

Question.—In refusing to answer the question asking you 'where you had married Louisa Delplace, was it because you are not married to that woman?'

Answer.—No, but because I considered all questions relating to Europe as illegal. I am married to Louisa Delplace, and if it is necessary I can obtain some time, from home, an extract of my marriage, and produce it to the Government.

The witness declares the contents of this deposition to be true, and hath signed, this seventeenth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

VANCASTER, GUSTAVE.

C A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

(Attested,)

J F. DUBREUIL,

Secretary, pro tempore.

MONDAY, the seventeenth day of March, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

PRESENT :

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, Q. C.,

Commissioner.

LOUISA DELPLACE, of the City of Montreal, being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, doth depose and say :

I am the wife of Joseph Gustave Vaneaster, heretofore employed in the Police Force of the City of Montreal. I am thirty-one years of age. I arrived in Montreal with my husband, the thirtieth of August last. We were with a number of Emigrants. We came from Charleroi, in Belgium. Upon our arrival at Montreal, we went to the Emigration Home, Mr. Belle was then Emigration Agent. I did not even see him on that day. We arrived at the Emigration Home at seven o'clock in the morning, and we left it about noon to go to Mr. Lussier, at Varennes. We remained about eight days at Varennes. Having fallen ill, I was taken to the hospital of the Grey Nuns of Varennes. I entered it on a Tuesday, and I left it the following Monday. We then left Varennes and returned to the Emigration Home. We lived in it six days.

Examined by Mr. Monk.—We were well received at the Emigration Home on our return from Varennes. Mr. Belle was then present. He told the cook, Madame Barrette, to give me a room to myself, that we had the appearance of proper, clean people, and he would see we were well cared for. They then gave me a room to myself, but it was dirty. Mr. Belle said I would be obliged to remain alone, because he did not allow the husbands here to sleep with their wives; this was said in presence of my husband; I had a room to myself. Mr. Belle returned about noon the following day. He had engaged one Boudinot, but he said he did not want him, that he preferred me, that I was prettier and cleaner. He then engaged me at sixteen dollars a month, myself as cook, and my husband as coachman. He then told me I would be obliged to make haste in order to be ready for the following

GUSTAVE.

Q. C.,
Commissioner.

Thursday. The next day, Mr. Belle came to me, and said I must wait until Saturday or Sunday, that he would be absent, having to go to Quebec. The following Saturday, about ten o'clock at night, I wished to leave the Emigration Home to go and live in College street. My husband was with me. I left that Saturday night. I think it was on the Friday, that Mr. Belle left for Quebec. He was not at the Home when I left it. This occurred in the beginning of September. The very day I returned to the Emigration Home from Varennes, Mr. Belle, in the presence of Madame Barrette, approached me, and said, putting his hand on my breast, that I could do his business, I thrust him back. This occurred in the kitchen. The following day, Mr. Belle returned about noon. I was in bed with my husband, the door was closed. Mr. Belle pushed it open and said "come Madame, I have two words to say to you," I then went into an adjoining room. He asked me, why I was in bed with my husband, that he was inclined to make me his mistress, and he did not wish me to sleep with my husband. Upon this he unbuttoned himself and he asked me if my husband could give me as much as he had. When he said this to me, he exposed his person. I then said to Mr. Belle that he was a big pig, and that I would not receive his insults. I remained about five minutes in the room with Mr. Belle. He placed his hand upon my person in an indecent manner, while he was speaking to me.

Mr. Belle returned the next day. I was seated, and being ill, passed up blood. He raised my head and kissed me, and put his hand under my petticoat. Upon this he told me I should go to the Doctor with him, that I was not ill enough not go to his house. He then took me to a Doctor in St. Antoine street. The Doctor told me I had an incurable disease. He gave me two small powders which I took. He also gave me a prescription, saying to me, that I could go to first druggist who would give me the same prescription on asking for it.

On my return to the Emigration Home, I went up stairs, and hearing Mr. Belle also coming up, I hid myself in a hole under the stairs. Mr. Belle said, "Where then is the big woman, (*la grosse*.) I cannot find her." Madame Barrette then said I will

find her. She came to me and said I had no occasion to hide, that Mr. Belle was a good man, and that I could have anything I liked from him, that I need not run away from him.

A few moments afterwards Mr. Belle came to my room and said he would give me two dollars if I would allow him to put his hand—while waiting to go to his house to be better fed. He said the Emigration Home at Montreal was a house of charity, and that they could not give better than what we had. I complained to him of the uncleanness of the beds in which there were vermin.

The day that Mr. Belle left for Quebec I told him I would not live in his house to injure my furniture, and that I would not be his mistress. Then Mr. Belle answered that my husband could not see clear, that he would send him to walk with his wife in Viger Gardens and elsewhere, and that during that time he would make love to me.

Question by the Commissioner.—How is it Madame that during all this time you continued to live at the Emigration Home?

Answer.—I could not take a house without money, and we could not then ~~leave~~, because we had no means to take lodgings.

Question by Mr. Monk.—Do I understand that during your husband's absence Mr. Belle proposed to you to become his mistress?

Answer.—Yes. Each time he came he took these liberties with me. Even upon one occasion, when I was going down the stairs, and Mr. Belle was coming up, and my husband behind him, Mr. Belle clasped me in his arms and pressed me to him. My husband asked him why he did that. Mr. Belle said he should hold his tongue at once, that he was in his own home and that he had no orders to receive.

I saw my husband coming up behind Mr. Belle, but I do not know if Mr. Belle was aware that my husband was behind him.

Question.—Independant of the liberties Mr. Belle took with you, is it to your personal knowledge that he took similar liberties with other persons?

Answer.—Two days after my engagement, a French emigrant lady, with a blue cloak, being in the bath-room, Mr. Belle asked her if she could sew. She said yes. He then said "You will come to my house and I will employ you as my housemaid and Madame, (alluding to me,) will be cook. He then caught her by the breast. This woman got away from him, and went into the yard saying that he was a big pander, (*maquereau*,) that he ruffled all the women, and she would not go to Mr. Belle's. I think she said she would return to Quebec. She left the same day. There were only three present, Mr. Belle, the woman in question and my husband.

The establishment was extremely badly conducted and unclean. We arrived there at seven o'clock in the morning. It was near eleven o'clock when they gave us in the yard a cup of coffee extremely bad, with a piece of bread. When I returned to the Emigration Home, I was well treated, Mr. Belle, seeing my state of health, gave orders that I should be well treated.

When I say that the establishment was dirty, I wish to say that the beds and the rooms were dirty. Myself and several other emigrants showed our beds to Mr. Muller, who was then employed at the Emigration Home.

As for the cooking, the meat was good, but it was prepared as if for pigs, and Madame Barrette, the cook, said it was good for the emigrants. Whenever the emigrants complained, Mr. Belle and Madame Barrette said it was a house of charity, that it was impossible to give more than the City gave.

As for soap and towels, I asked for both, but did not get either. Madame Barrette said she could not give that which she had not herself.

It is to my knowledge that Madame Barrette and her daughter received money from emigrants for washing their linen. It is to my knowledge that the emigrants complained of being badly fed, and said they would like to return to Quebec.

We left the establishment without any money.

Examined by Mr. St. Pierre.—The person named Boudinot, of whom I have spoken above, had her husband, who was to have accompanied his wife to Mr. Belle's, in the quality of coachman. For the reasons already mentioned by me, he engaged my husband in his stead. I arrived from Varennes on a Monday, and I left the Emigration Home Saturday night at ten o'clock. I left the Emigration Home because I did not wish to live with Mr. Belle as his mistress, and also because he said to me, that if I was not at his house the following day (Sunday) at ten o'clock, I would be obliged to leave the Emigration Home.

I said in my examination-in-chief, that on the Tuesday I was in a room next to that in which was my husband, and that while I was there, Mr. Belle exposed his person. When I went into the room, he reproached me for sleeping with my husband, saying that, seeing he wished me to become his mistress, he did not wish me to again sleep with my husband. While saying this, he commenced to unbutton himself.

In speaking of the unclean cooking, I wish to add, that frequently to my knowledge, the peeled potatoes have been put into the buckets used for emptying the night soil. This was repeated several times to my knowledge. On remarking it, Madame Barrette answered, saying that it was good enough for emigrants. Mr. Belle also said, when complaint was made to him about it, "it is good enough for you; this place is a house of charity."

There were no quilts on the beds used by the men. The mattresses were bare. A good number of the men slept upon the bare boards. The beds used by the women were composed of a mattress covered with a sheet.

In the month of November or December last, I made my husband acquainted with the subject of my deposition, one evening he was ill, he asked me why I constantly refused to go into Mr. Belle's service. I did not wish to speak to my husband about this during the time we were in the Emigration Home, because I believe Mr. Belle would have experienced a bad quarter of an hour. My husband is a very passionate man. My husband joined the police two days after having left the Emigration Home. I

did not think it proper to speak to him about Mr. Belle's conduct towards me, and it was only later, as I have above stated, that I gave him the full particulars of the affair.

I drew up my complaint jointly with my husband in the form of a letter signed by him, and which was sent to Quebec. The letter to which I here make allusion is the same produced in this record, and marked D, and dated ninth December last.

Later, I made an affidavit jointly with my husband, before William F. Lighthall, Commissioner of the Superior Court, the twenty-eighth December last, which affidavit is filed in the record, and marked with the letter L.

Mr. Belle never came to my house to ask me to withdraw my complaint, but other persons came who said they were authorized by him. I went to Mr. Belle's office at the request of these persons, about the time, that is the day my husband was discharged from the Police Force. My husband accompanied me. We went to the office in St. Jacques street, about three or half-past three o'clock in the afternoon. Mr. Belle and three other persons, of whom one was, I believe, a Mr. Létourneau, Mr. Lafon, the detective, and Mr. Notary Morissette, were present. On entering, Mr. Belle gave me a chair, saying I ought not to be vexed for the little nonsense he had with me, that I should pardon him. He said: did I ever do you any harm? I answered him saying, if you never did me harm, you never did me any good, I have something to say to you.

The examination of the witness is continued until to-morrow, Tuesday, the eighteenth of March, at ten o'clock in the forenoon: and the witness hath signed.

LOUISA DELPLACE.

And the Commissioner adjourns the enquiry until Tuesday, the eighteenth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

(Attested,)

J. F. DUBREUIL,

Secretary, pro tempore

TUESDAY, the eighteenth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

PRESENT :

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, Q. C.,

Commissioner.

The examination of Madame Vancaster is continued :

To Mr. St. Pierre.—They read the affidavit over to me which they had prepared, with the object of making me contradict the one to which I had already taken oath at my house. When I went to Mr. Belle's in the afternoon, I saw a paper in his hands which I believe I recognized as this affidavit. Detective Lafon and the Notary Morissette are the persons who came to my house. They appeared to act in concert and under the orders of Mr. Belle, because they used Mr. Belle's name at my house, and in the afternoon I found them at Mr. Belle's office. When, in the morning these two persons (Lafon and Morissette) came to my house, and after having read the affidavit of which I have just spoken, purporting to say that the first affidavit, my complaint under oath, was false, and that it had been made at the request of Mr. Muller, one of them, Lafon, told me, that if I was willing to withdraw my complaint, Mr. Belle would not look at one hundred dollars or two hundred dollars to reward me. I told him that I would not take a false oath for two hundred dollars. I went but once to Mr. Belle's office, St. Jacques Street. I could not have had a long conversation with Mr. Belle, because a few moments after I had entered, a disturbance took place in the room adjoining the one we occupied. While at Mr. Belle's, and at the moment of the hubbub, Lafon told me to go into another room. Mr. Barnard, emigration agent for Belgium, a Doctor, and Lafon, were there. Mr. Lafon asked me before these persons if the money had been offered to me yesterday. I said "it was not yesterday but to-day that you offered it." In the meantime I went away.

Cross-Examined.

By Mr. Belle.—I am from Jemmapes, near Mous, in Belgium. I left Charleroi to come to America. I had left Jemmapes four

months previously. I left Jemmapes with my husband Vancaster. Vancaster is my first husband.

Question.—Did you not say to some one in Montreal that you had a dirty piece of business with Mr. Belle, with the object of extracting money from him?

Answer.—No.

Question.—Did you not tell Dr. Picault, of Montreal, in his shop, or in his dispensary, in his presence, and in the presence of his clerks and to his knowledge, that you had money to make with Mr. Belle, and that you would make him sing?

Answer.—No. Lafon told me that Mr. Picault was on the side of Mr. Belle and to be careful. I went to Mr. Picault for advice, I asked him, when he was alone in his office, if an oath here was not as good as an oath taken at home. He said yes, but that it was a little folly, that I would do better to allow the matter to rest, that Mr. Belle was a man with power, and that I was only an emigrant, that Mr. Belle would attain an end which we could not arrive at, that Mr. Belle had money. Then one of the Doctor's clerks who said he was a Belgian, told me he was a pig, that he had put him, (the clerk,) in prison, and that without Dr. Picault he would have found himself on the streets.

I am positive in stating that I did not say at Dr. Picault's, and in the presence of Dr. Picault, that I had money to make out of Mr. Belle, and that I would make him sing. I did not use words bearing the same sense. After having left the Emigration Home, I returned once, with my husband, to see if there were letters to our address. I met Mr. Muller three or four times since I left the Emigration Home. Since the opening of this investigation I have not had any conversation with Mr. Muller touching what I had to say before this Commission. Mr. Muller did not, in the vicinity of the Court House, yesterday, give me any advice upon what I had to say here as a witness, and I did not want his advice.

Question.—How is it, that after having kept secret from your husband all the pretended outrages committed upon you by Mr. Belle until the end of November, or the beginning of December, you decided all at once to reveal it.

Answer.—It was because I was ill and thought I was dying, that I did not like to disclose such things to my husband.

Question.—When you found out that you were not to die so soon, with what object did you make these revelations to your husband?

Answer.—Because my husband asked me why we did not go into Mr. Belle's service. I then made the disclosures in question. My husband was carried away with passion, and he said he would make it known to Mr. Lesage.

Question.—You then say, that from the time you left the Emigration Home, up to the end of November or the beginning of December, when you made these disclosures to your husband, you were so ill that you thought yourself dying.

Answer.—Yes.

Question.—Was it in College street you made these disclosures to your husband.

Answer.—No, it was in Montcalm street, where we now reside.

Question.—During your residence in College street, did you not find yourself in good enough health to dance the can-can at the wedding of one Gagnon?

Answer.—Yes. I went to the wedding of one Gagnon. Eight French people went to it, four men and four women. Mr. Gagnon and his wife, who are Canadians, begged of us to dance of our country. Madame Arnaud told us to take our places. I told her I could not dance but that I would take a place and walk through. It was not the cancan we danced, but a quadrille, and as we dance it in our country. I could not finish the dance because I was too indisposed.

Question.—In short, upon the occasion referred to, if you did not dance the cancan, did you not dance a dance as immoral?

Answer.—I do not know what the cancan is. I danced a quadrille, and it is not an immoral dance.

Question.—Did you not, yourself, upon the occasion referred to, dance in an immoral manner.

Answer.—No.

We had for dinner, at the Emigration Home, potatoes, meat and soup. It was all mixed together. I ate a little of the soup, and as for the rest of my dinner, I left it there.

I had a room apart from that of my husband, but I made him come with me. My husband slept two nights in a hangard which served as a dormitory. I made him come afterwards to me to share my room.

Question.—Have you been, before this enquiry, in communication with the witnesses who have been already heard or who are to be heard later?

Answer.—I know those who have been already examined, Mr. Muller and my husband. I do not know those who are to be examined.

By Mr. Doherty.—I am thirty-one years of age. Lafon is the only one who spoke to me. Mr. Morissette, who accompanied him, did not speak to me. He only said "it is your business," upon the remark I made to him when I asked him if it would not be a false oath to alter my affidavit. I gave him something to drink, as we usually do in our country. I did not drink anything myself. I do not drink, because of my illness.

I know one Depleschin. I never drank with her. I made her acquaintance at Gagnon's house. I never drank in the presence of Depleschin. When Mr. Lafon and Morissette visited us, there was a boarder named Dimanche, living in my house. He was writing on a table, my husband followed Lafon. These were the only persons who were present when Lafon re-ascended, Mr. Morissette having remained at the foot of the stairs, he came near to me and placing his hand on my breast, he said: "Well made, do this for Madame Belle and her children." I pushed him back, saying that my honor was worth as much as that of Madame Belle and her children. He then excused himself

saying, "let us go, you will be at Mr. Belle's at three o'clock." He then left.

The deponent declares that the present deposition contains the truth, persisting therein, and hath signed this eighteenth March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

LOUISA DELPLACE.

The enquiry is continued to Wednesday, the nineteenth March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

(Attested)

J. F. DUBREUIL,
Secretary, pro tempore.

GUSTAVE VANCASTER, heretofore of Beauvechien, Belgium, emigrant, arrived in Montreal during the closing season of navigation, and now of Montreal, policeman, and Dame Louisa Delplace, his wife, being duly sworn, doth depose and say :

That while the deponents resided in the Emigration Home, St. Antoine street, Montreal, at the beginning of the month of September last, (1872,) Charles E. Belle, of Montreal, Emigrant Agent, made overtures to the said deponents, with the view of engaging them as servants, the said deponent Vancaster as coachman, and the said deponent Delplace as general servant.

That during the time the said deponents thus resided at the Emigration Home, the said Belle followed the said female deponent to the upper story of the house, placing his hands on her and the said Belle making to the said female deponent the dishonest proposal to become his mistress; saying if the said female deponent would enter his service, that while the deponent Vancaster was driving the wife of the said Belle in the carriage, he the said Belle and the said female deponent would have criminal connection; and that while the said female deponent and the said

Belle were on the said upper story of the Emigration Home, the said Belle tried to have criminal connection with the said female deponent.

That the said deponent left the said Emigration Home after the dishonest proposition made by Mr. Belle, to the female deponent, and that the said deponents thus found themselves without a home, not knowing where to go.

That the said deponents have communicated these facts to Mr. T. Lesage, Assistant Commissioner of Public Works and Colonization, and the said deponents have signed after the reading of the said affidavit.

VANCASTER, GUSTAVE.
DELPLACE, LOUISA

Sworn and signed before me, }
at Montreal, this twenty- }
eighth day of December, }
one thousand eight hun- }
and seventy-two. }

WM. F. LIDTHALL,
Com. S. C.

Endorsed L. 11th March, 1873, produced by the witness Van-
caster.

P. McD.,
Secretary.

TUESDAY, the eighteenth day of March, one thousand eight hun-
dred and seventy-three, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

PRESENT :

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, Q. C.,

Commissioner.

JEAN BAPTISTE MONIER, copiest at the office of Messrs. Judah
& Wurtele, of Montreal, advocates, being duly sworn, doth de-
pose and say :

I arrived in Montreal on the first of October, 1872. I am one of the Emigrants who came to this country. I am a Frenchman, and twenty-five years of age. I have my wife with me. On my arrival at Montreal, I met Mr. Muller at the depot, and as one of the persons employed at the Emigration Home, he brought us to the Home with him. I remained at the Emigration Home with my wife and child, almost eight days. On the day of my arrival at the Home I saw Mr. Belle, who is Emigration agent. In the course of conversation with Mr. Belle, I leased a room in the Emigration Home. On leaving the Home I was employed in the Crown Lands Office. The second day after my arrival at the Home I received from Mr. Belle, through Mr. Muller, notice that he would give me employment at his office as an Agent of Crown Lands. I was so employed from the 3rd to the 14th of October, inclusively.

To Mr. Monk.—On the day of our arrival at the establishment my wife was discouraged and cried, because they wished to lodge her in a room with other women, more or less clean. Madame Barrette said to her that she could not have other lodgings, and if she would not use them she could, with her child, go to the hotel. Mr. Belle happening to pass at the time spoke to my wife encouragingly, saying, "I will see you to-morrow."

During the time we stopped at the Emigration Home, my wife made no complaint to me against Mr. Belle. Three weeks after my discharge by Mr. Belle from his employment, my wife made a complaint against Mr. Belle. A long time elapsed before my wife complained to me, because our child died on the same day I was discharged by Mr. Belle, and we were in mourning, and had no time to think of anything else. Our child was five years and six months old. It was our only child.

It was about the beginning of November, at No. 205, Richmond street, where we then lived, that my wife made these communications to me about Mr. Belle.

Question.—Did your wife make these complaints to you as against the establishment or against Mr. Belle?

What are these complaints?

Answer.—My wife made the complaints against Mr. Belle. She told me that she had been insulted by him.

Question.—Why were you discharged from Mr. Belle's office?

Answer.—One of Mr. Belle's employees with whom I worked told me that it was because Mr. Belle had no more work to give me, while I ascertained that same evening that his reason was only a pretext, because he hired in my stead another emigrant, Mr. Joly, who arrived during the day.

Question.—During the time that you and your wife, lived in the Emigration Home, in what condition was it kept?

Answer.—It was very dirty. The men slept in an outhouse, (*hangard*), upon boards covered with very poor mattress, without any covering, and full of vermin. The room in which the cooking is done, was neither too clean or too dirty. In the morning they gave us a kind of broth, which we called coffee, (in which they were very careful not to put too much sugar,) with bread at will, and a little butter spread over it. We had a little soup for dinner, with boiled beef, but the beef was not eatable. We had but one room to wash ourselves in, there was a bathing tub in it but no soap. It was the only room in which we could wash. We had to buy the soap and towels ourselves.

It is to my knowledge that Mr. Belle addressed the emigrants brutally enough, and used the words "thee" and "thou" to every body. It seemed as if emigrants, were received at this establishment as refugees, rather than as emigrants, instead of looking for employment for them they took from a directory the name and address of persons in the same business as the enquiring emigrant, telling him to go there and look for work, while Mr. Belle received letters daily, and without doubt verbal applications, from persons wanting workmen and hands. A register of all these applications was kept, and which was in my hands. Having also in my keeping the register in which the names of emigrants were recorded, and in which opposite to each name was written the place

whither they had gone, on leaving the Emigration Home, I noticed that no entry was made of applications, because rarely an emigrant was sent to persons applying for them.

By Mr. St. Pierre.—I had the documents, of which I have spoken above, in my hands, for the purpose of preparing statistics for the Government. My wife remained at the Emigration Home during a portion of the time I was employed by Mr. Belle. My wife left it as soon as she found suitable lodgings.

Cross-examined by Mr. Belle.

In Europe I was an office man. I studied Geometry, and I was employed in railway offices. I have no knowledge of a correspondence relating to emigration other than what I saw in books. I saw two or three letters in the leaves of books which I had in my possession.

And the witness here concludes his deposition, persisting in the same, and hath signed, this eighteenth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

(Signed.)

J. MONIER.

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

(Attested,)

J. F. DUBREUIL,

Secretary, pro tempore.

TUESDAY, the eighteenth of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

PRESENT:

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, Q. C.,

Commissioner.

FÉLICIA CHATAIGNIER, of Montreal, wife of Jean Baptiste Monier, being duly sworn, doth depose and say:

I am twenty-two years of age. I am a French woman. I have been in Canada since the first of October last with my husband and my child, aged about six years. Upon our arrival at Montreal, we were conducted to the Emigration Home by Mr. Muller, of the Emigration Department, Mr. Belle was then Emigration Agent. I remained at the Emigration Home about seven days.

By Mr. St. Pierre.—When we arrived in Canada, we came from Bordeaux, France, we found the Emigration Home at Montreal very unclean; we were very badly treated, and very poorly fed. Madame Barrette was the cook, and had charge of the Home. Two or three days after our arrival, my husband obtained a situation with Mr. Belle.

Question.—Had you particular reason to complain of the conduct of Mr. Belle, towards yourself, during the time you lived in the Emigration Home?

Answer.—Yes. The Friday following the day of our arrival at the Home, I was engaged washing the back room, I had my child with me. Mr. Belle came into the room, and asked me how long I had been married. I told him I had been married seven years. He then asked me if I had only that child. I answered "Yes." Mr. Belle then said to me that I was more lucky than others, I could have the enjoyment, without having the children. I passed before Mr. Belle, and in passing he put his hand on my bosom. I said to him. Oh! Sir, my child. I left without saying further. I have nothing else to reproach Mr. Belle with than what I have stated. This occurred on a Friday, and I left the following Monday. I first and foremost left the Home in consequence of this insult, and also because they were constantly telling us, we should make room for other emigrants. I was obliged to lodge wherever I could. At noon we had to procure a ticket to get a very bad dinner, which was also insufficient in quantity. Emigrants were treated more like escaped convicts and refugees than like "Emigrants." One day I asked Madame Barrette for some bread for my child who was indisposed; she refused to give me any, saying that if I was obliged to pay for the bread I would not give the child any. Another day I said

to Madame Barrette " why do you always give soup and broth (*bouilli*) instead of a stew (*ragout*) which was something better." She answered: " Do you suppose for fifteen pence, which I receive from Mr. Belle for each person, that I can afford to give you better. I remarked upon the uncleanness all over, particularly in the food. We washed the potatoes in the same buckets used to empty the night soil. I did so myself, upon Madame Barrette's order, and on making the observations as above, she said: It is good enough for such people as you.

Cross-examined by Mr. Belle.

I returned to the Emigration Home, the second day following the burial of my child, to say " good bye " to Mr. Müller. I did not like to acquaint my husband immediately, of the insult offered to me by Mr. Belle, inasmuch as he was then employed in Mr. Belle's office, and it might lead to a dispute

Question.—When did you speak of this to your husband?

Answer.—The second day following the burial of my child. I then said to my husband " you will go to Mr. Belle, and say to him that you will return to your work during the week. He said to me that Mr. Belle had dismissed him, that he had no more work for him.

My husband made a complaint in writing, but did not send it to anyone. He gave it to Mr. Müller. Since leaving the Emigration Home, I have some times met Mr. Müller.

And the witness here concludes her deposition in which she persists, declaring the same to be true; at Montreal, this eighteenth of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

(Signed,) F. MONIER.

And the *enquête* is continued to Wednesday, the nineteenth March, eighteen hundred and seventy-three, at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

(Attested,)

J. F. DUBREUIL,
Secretary, pro tempore.

WEDNESDAY, the nineteenth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

PRESENT :

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, Q. C.,

Commissioner.

Mr. A. Belle, one of the advocates of Mr. C. E. Belle, objects to the nature of the evidence produced yesterday afternoon, on the examination of Mr. and Madame Monier. He says the charges ought to be limited to the accusations made in the complaints of Muller, Parotte and Vancaster, which are the only accusations submitted to Mr. Belle and his advocates.

Mr. St. Pierre said that the objections ought to have been taken when the witnesses were under examination, and it could then have been discussed.

The Commissioner said, he had already given his opinion upon the subject. If the witnesses come and corroborate generally the accusations against Mr. Belle, he will hear them.

Mr. Monk said he wished to examine witnesses to prove Mr. Belle's bad administration as an Emigration Agent.

Mr. Doherty another of Mr. Belle's advocates, said that Mr. Monk's doctrine could not prevail. The accusations which Mr. Belle is called upon to answer ought not to go outside of the record.

The Commissioner ruled that the objection ought to be taken when the witness is under examination, and then, after discussion, he would give his decision.

BENJAMIN CLÉMENT, of the City of Montreal, builder, being duly sworn, doth depose and say: I am thirty-eight years of age.

To Mr. Monk.—I think I was employed in the month of April, 1871, in the Emigrants' Home, Montreal, as Superintendent.

under Mr. Belle, and I continued to act as such, until June of the same year. I was there about two months.

Question.--Had you ample opportunities, during the time above mentioned, to see how the Home was conducted by Mr. Belle?

Objected to on behalf of Mr. Belle, inasmuch as the time enquired of by this question, appears by what the witness has just sworn, to be over twelve months anterior to the making or existence of any of the charges now the subject of this enquiry.

Mr. St. Pierre says the present charge is a general charge against Mr. Belle's whole administration, and is of the most general nature—and that right must be allowed to the prosecution, to adduce proof of such administration. There being no time specified in Mr. Muller's affidavit.

Mr. Belle says a date is affixed to Muller's letter of transmission. The Commissioner has to inquire of the facts alleged in Mr. Muller's complaint, and of no other.

The Commissioner said he had already decided the question at the beginning of the investigation. He cannot go outside of the record. The objection of the defence is maintained. He cannot go beyond his commission. He maintains the objection.

To Mr. St. Pierre.—Witness says he never has been to the Home since he has left the office he occupied as superintendent thereof. And he hath signed.

BENJ. CLEMENT.

The investigation is continued to two o'clock in the afternoon of this day, Wednesday, the 19th March, 1873, the complainants declaring they will not have any witnesses to examine before two o'clock in the afternoon of this day.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner

(Attested,

J. F. DUBREUIL,
Secretary, pro tempore.

WEDNESDAY, the nineteenth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

PRESENT:

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, Q. C.

Commissioner.

ALEXANDRINE RIGOLAT, wife of Paul Jacquin, of the City of Montreal, being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—I have resided in the City of Montreal since the month of August last. I am a French woman. I came to Montreal with a number of other emigrants. I am twenty-three years of age. When I arrived at Montreal I went with my husband to the Emigration Home, where I remained fifteen days. During that time my husband did not obtain any employment. Mr. Belle was then Emigration Agent, and Mr. Muller was employed in the office.

To Mr. Monk.—The establishment, during the time I was in it, was very uncleanly kept. The beds were very dirty and covered with vermin. There was neither quilts or sheets on the beds that I saw. There was a bath-room which was used by both sexes. During the fifteen days, we had but one towel for every body. We had no soap. Mr. Belle treated the emigrants very insolently. I was ailing during the time I was at the Home. One Saturday finding myself very ill, I being seven months *enceinte*, Mr. Belle asked me what was the matter, I said I was ill but did not know the illness. He then offered me a ticket to admit me to the hospital, I refused it, saying to him that I did not come to Canada to go to an hospital. Mr. Belle then said to me if I would not go to hospital I must leave the Home, using the words "you must clear out" [*vous foutez le camp.*] I left on the instant, and went in search of my husband who was working in College street. We went to live in Richmond street, where we now reside. It is not to my knowledge that emigrants, to get their washing done, paid money to Madame Barrette. The kitchen was in a very dirty condition. I do not know the name of the person who acted as cook, it was a woman who had a daughter and two other children. The kitchen crockery was unclean, and when we wished to eat

out of a clean vessel, we were obliged to wash it ourselves. The establishment is not well adapted for emigrants.

To Mr. St. Pierre.—If the Home had been kept in sufficiently clean order, and the food more substantial, the accommodation would have been satisfactory. Mr. Belle did not treat the emigrants with politeness, he treated us as if we were persons of no account.

Cross-examined by Mr. Belle.

We arrived at the Emigration Home on the twelfth of last August, and we left it two weeks afterwards. Between the twelfth and twenty-second of August, I complained to Mr. Müller, who solaced me a great deal.

The witness here closes her deposition, declaring the same to be true, persisting in the same, and hath signed.

[Signed,]

FEM. JACQUIN.

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

Attested,]

J. F. DUBREUIL,

Secretary, pro tempore.

This nineteenth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

PRESENT:

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, Q. C.,

Commissioner.

PAUL JACQUIN, of the City of Montreal, painter, being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—I am a Frenchman. I have been in Montreal since the twelfth of August last, when I went with my wife to the Emigration Home.

To Mr. Monk.—I found the Emigration Home, at Montreal, in a very bad condition; there was enough in the establishment to work it well, but it was badly directed. I lived in it about fifteen days. There are in the establishment two sleeping apartments for men, one of which is damp and on the ground floor in the front of the building, the other is at the back and in the same condition. There were panes of glass wanting in the windows. The beds were very bad. They consisted simply of a mattress, covered with vermin. As for the kitchen, it was always the same thing. We always had broth. It was sufficiently boiled, but having the same food always, it became tiresome. They might have given a roast, one or two days, and the rest would have passed. There was but one wash-room, and one very dirty towel. I never saw soap in this room. I saw Mr. Belle but twice at the Emigration Home.

The house is not suitable for an Emigrants' Home.

To Mr. St. Pierre.—Mr. Belle inspired all the servants with terror, but not the emigrants. He spoke in a haughty manner.

Cross-examined by Mr. Belle.

French soldiers have better sleeping accommodation than we had, at the emigration home.

Question.—Apart from the buttons on the coat you now wear, do you not carry the uniform of the Commune?

Answer.—No. I never wore it.

The witness here closes his deposition, declaring it true, persisting therein, and hath signed.

[Signed.] PAUL JACQUIN.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

[Attested.]

J. F. DUBREUIL,
Secretary, pro tempore.

This nineteenth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

PRESENT :

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, *Q. C.*,

Commissioner.

CYR. LOIGNON, of the City of Montreal, barber, being duly sworn, doth depose and say, I arrived at the Emigration Home, Montreal, St. Antoine street, with my wife and two children, on the 7th of September last. I am a Frenchman. I remained at the Emigration Home from the Saturday, the day of my arrival, until the following Tuesday.

To Mr. Monk.—Upon our arrival at the Emigration Home, they gave us some hot water which was a little reddish and not sweetened, [they told us it was tea,] and slices of bread with a little butter. I asked that some eggs should be cooked for my children, but the cook refused, stating it was Mr. Belle's wish that nobody should go into the kitchen. I bought the eggs myself. The next day I asked them to cook a beefsteak that I had bought for my children, they even refused to allow me to cook it in the kitchen. It was the cook who refused me.

I left the Home because the beds were dirty, and the food bad. My wife was obliged to sleep with her children upon a mattress without sheets or quilts. Myself and others were obliged to sleep in a shed [*hangard*], that is, a building behind the Home, where beds were arranged as if for soldiers. The beds were very dirty. Mr. Belle was insulting and used the words "thee" or "thou" to every body. I asked Mr. Belle several times to get me my baggage which was at the Grand Trunk, and for which they asked me \$26.91. Mr. Belle said it did not concern him.

Respecting the kitchen, we were well enough fed at noon, but not in the mornings or evenings. I lived three days at the Emigration Home, and I did not see a bath-room, that is to say, I did not go to it during those three days. I went every day to the house of a friend in St. Phillip street to make my toilet. I found the establishment badly kept.

Mr. Belle's Attorneys declare they have no cross-questions to put to this witness.

And the deponent here closes his deposition, persisting therein, declaring the same to be true, and hath signed.

LOIGNON.

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

(Attested,)

J. F. DUBREUIL,

Secretary, pro tempore.

And the complainants declaring that they have no other witness to examine this day, the *enquête* is adjourned to Thursday, the twentieth of March instant, at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

[Attested,]

J. F. DUBREUIL,

Secretary, pro tempore.

THURSDAY, the twentieth of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

PRESENT :

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, Q. C.,

Commissioner.

LOUIS URSIN SELLE, known under the name of Rémi Selle, of the City of Montreal, printer on cloth, being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—I am fifty years of age. I am a Frenchman. Before coming to Canada, I lived near Paris. I arrived at Montreal on the fifth of August last. On my arrival at Montreal I went to the Emigration Home, where I lived for about fifteen days, until I obtained work. I went there with my wife and three children.

To Mr. Monk.—To sum up, we were very badly received, very badly fed, very badly lodged (couched), very uncleanly, in vermin, and very badly looked after. That is my appreciation, according to my conscience. Instead of finding sympathy, I rather found repugnance. I only spoke once to Mr. Belle, and in fact I saw him but once during the time I was at the Home. I spoke to him to see if I could not get a more lucrative place, saying to him that I only earned six dollars a week. He said to me that it was very good for me to have such wages, that I ought not to complain, as many other persons were not earning so much. I believe that we were all treated alike. I do not believe any one had a preference. They absolutely looked upon us as mendicants, and my heart was full whenever I came down to a meal, because I was not accustomed to receive such insults. If we arrived at our meals a quarter of an hour after the time fixed, they told us it must not occur again, that we should find ourselves there at the exact hour. The establishment is not appropriate for the reception of emigrants. That is my conviction.

There was a bathing tub in the bath-room in which we could conveniently wash ourselves. There was but one room for the men and the women.

To Mr. St. Pierre.—I do not believe any cloth-printing is done at Montreal, there is no factory of that kind.

Question.—If the administration of the Home was good, would it afford sufficient accommodation for emigrants?

Answer.—In my view, I do not find the house well adapted, and it would be necessary to change all the furniture, at least beds ought to be placed in it, upon which we could sleep.

Cross-examined.

The attorneys of Mr. Belle declare they have no questions to ask the witness. The witness here closes his deposition, declaring the same to contain the truth, and hath signed.

SELLE.

C. A. LEBLANC,

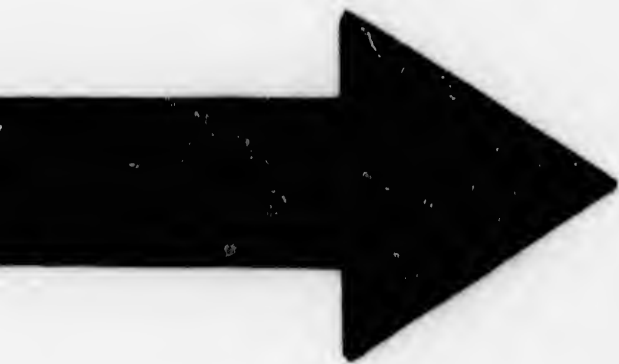
Commissioner.

[Attested,]

J. F. DUBREUIL,

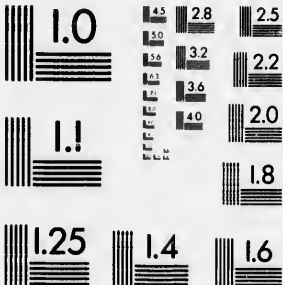
Secretary, pro tempore.





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The same day, the twentieth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, in the forenoon.

JEAN PIERRE ARNAUD, of the City of Montreal, boarding-house-keeper, being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—I am a Frenchman. I am from the Var and Garonne Districts, *chef-lieu*, Montauban. I arrived in Montreal, with my wife and a number of emigrants on the twenty-first July last. I went to the Emigration Home for which Mr. Belle is the agent.

To Mr. Monk.—I remained in the establishment for 4 or 5 days. I arrived there the 21st July, and I left it on the morning of the 26th. My wife complained of having been badly treated. On the twenty-fourth or twenty-fifth of July, Mr. Belle called me into his office in presence of Mr. Muller, and he then said to me that my wife was going out, and that she was associated with Frenchmen in the city, [*qu'elle allait faire la vie*,] which was wholly false. He then asked me to leave and find other lodgings. I understood by the words "*faire la vie*" that he wished to say my wife was leading the life of an improper woman in the City. On the morrow, or the day after, I found other lodgings and left the place. It was upon the order of Mr. Belle, that I so left. I was married on the sixth of Junelast, at Paris, in the *Mairie* of the sixth *arrondissement*. My wife always conducted herself as an honest woman should conduct herself. The establishment was very dirty, and we were very badly fed. There was vermin; the food was insufficient. It was impossible to wash ourselves, because there was neither soap or towels.

To Mr. St. Pierre.—My wife was not present when Mr. Belle addressed me as above related. The following were the words used by Mr. Belle "*Votre femme va en ville faire la putain avec des Français.*" "Your wife goes to the City to whore with Frenchmen." He added, "that he understood emigrant ladies should remain in the Home without going out."

Question.—You said in your examination-in-chief, that your wife complained to you of Mr. Belle's treatment towards her, and you added that she had said to you amongst other things, that Mr. Belle invited her to go to his office; please say if these solici-

tations were ever made in your presence, and if not, in what manner did they come to your knowledge?

Answer.—These solicitations were not made in my presence. It was my wife who told me, on my arrival at home at noonday from my work.

Question.—When Mr. Belle said to you that your wife went to the City to amuse herself with Frenchmen, or that she went there for bawdy purposes, to use his own expression, did he give you the names of the persons with whom he pretended your wife amused herself?

Answer.—No.

I never at any time knew my wife to be a woman of loose character. The first informations I received of this looseness was from the mouth of Mr. Belle. I believe that this pretended misconduct of my wife was used by Mr. Belle as a motive to dismiss us from the Home. This information given to me by Mr. Belle annoyed me so much, that if I had had the means, I would have immediately sued him in damages, to let him see if my wife was a bawd.

Cross-examined.

By Mr. Belle.—I did not assist at any meeting against Mr. Belle, either in St. Antoine street or elsewhere. On leaving the Emigration Home, I went to live at No. 31, College Street.

I received a subpoena to come and give evidence. I offered to give evidence myself. I went with that object to Mr. Barnard.

The witness closes his deposition, declaring the same to be true, and hath signed.

[Signed,]

J. P. ARNAUD.

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

[Attested,]

J. F. DUBREUIL,

Secretary, pro tempore.

THURSDAY, the twentieth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three,—before noon.

JEANNE DELBRUT, wife of Jean Pierre Arnaud, the witness who has just been heard, being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—I am twenty-seven years of age. I arrived in Montreal with with my husband the 21st July last.

To Mr. St. Pierre.—We reached the Emigration Home on Sunday, and we left it on the following Thursday.

Answer.—We arrived at the Emigration Home on a Sunday, and we left it the following Thursday.

Question.—Did you never say to Mr. Belle, Emigration Agent, at Montreal, that you did not like to go to his office without your husband, and have you had any conversation with Mr. Belle upon that subject?

Answer.—I never had any private conversation with Mr. Belle. I spoke to him once in the kitchen the same day he ordered me, very insolently, to leave the home. I did not say to Mr. Belle personally, that I did not wish to go to his office. I said so to a young girl who said she had been sent by him. As I have already stated, I never had a private conversation with Mr. Belle.

Question.—Please relate what was said in the kitchen?

The Attorneys for the defence objected to this question.

Question resumed.

Answer.—Mr. Belle said to me very impolitely that we must leave the house immediately. This conversation took place near the kitchen. In my opinion Mr. Belle is unworthy of being a husband and a father. I asked Mr. Belle if he would be good enough to allow some one to go with me into the city to assist me in finding lodgings. Mr. Belle said he had nobody, and that he could not give me any person to assist me, because he could not find for every person people to conduct them.

The young woman who pretended having been sent by Mr. Belle to me, as I have already above stated, was the daughter of Madame Barrette, the cook. I understood that the office to which I was to go was that of Mr. Belle in the lower part of the same building.

Question.—Please explain why you answered this message by saying, that you did not wish to go to Mr. Belle's office without being accompanied by your husband?

Answer.—It was in consequence of the manner in which Mr. Belle received us on our arrival at the home. I noticed on our arrival that he used the words "thee" and "thou" to every body (*tutoyait*) and he produced upon me so singular an impression, that I was ashamed to look him in the face. I twice received from the young girl above mentioned, invitations to go to Mr. Belle's office. It was upon the first invitation I answered as above stated. On receiving the second invitation, I went down stairs, and there I had the conversation as already reported above. Upon this occasion Mr. Belle placed a servant at my disposal who accompanied me for an hour and a half, in search of lodgings. It was after my refusal to Mr. Belle's first invitation to go to his office, that he spoke of me to my husband. I was not present at the conversation between Mr. Belle and my husband, but at mid-day I had a terrible scene with my husband, in consequence of what Mr. Belle had told him of me. I was on the point of telegraphing to my parents to send me money to return. When my husband arrived, he was pale and very excited. He charged me with having gone out. I had all the trouble in the world to convince him to the contrary. I was then in complete undress (*négligé*.) My husband reproached me with having gone into the City with some Frenchmen, he said he had been so informed. This accusation was false, because I did not go out.

Question.—Did you never leave the Emigration Home, and have you never at any time gone into the City, here at Montreal, to amuse yourself, and have a good time with Frenchmen or other persons?

Answer.—No.

I found everything in the Emigration Home very dirty, the rooms and the beds. The food was more than insufficient and very bad. After my last interview with Mr. Belle, I was so anxious to take no matter what situation, even to engage myself as a servant, and I even took steps for that purpose with a Mr. Beau. The last interview I had took place two days after the difficulty with my husband.

The attorneys for the defence declare they have no cross-questions to put to the witness, who declares the present deposition to contain the truth, and hath signed.

[Signed,] MDME. ARNAUD.
C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

[Attested,]
J. F. DUBREUIL,
Secretary, pro tempore.

THURSDAY, the twentieth of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, at three-quarters past three o'clock in the afternoon.

PRESENT :

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, Q. C.,
Commissioner.

ALBERT BRUN, employed in a commercial house at Montreal, being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—I am a Frenchman. I am from Perpignan, in France. I am thirty-four years of age. I arrived, with a number of other emigrants, in Montreal, on the 13th of August last. I came here with my family, my wife and one child. I went to the Emigration Home. Mr. Belle was then Emigration Agent, and when I arrived at the Home, it was Mr. Archille Belle, his nephew, who replaced him during his absence. We lived in the Emigration Home about fifteen days.

To Mr. Monk.—I must say in all truth that I have no complaint to make against Mr. Belle personally, and on my arrival I

was received with much civility by his nephew, Mr. Archille Belle, advocate, who therein replaced him. The food and sleeping accommodation was bad. Having been accustomed to more comfort in France. I found it very painful for my wife and myself. In my opinion all the blame should be attached to the manager of the establishment, and much to the cook. Madame Barrette and her daughter through excess of zeal went beyond the orders she ought to have received.

Having perceived on my arrival at Montreal, that I left for the winter a parcel voluminous enough, of effects which composed my little fortune, one of the employees at the Montreal office, [Mr. Muller] at my request, wrote to the Agency at Quebec. I went to Madame Barrette to reclaim my parcel, and she answered me in an insolent manner, that she had nothing for me, while it was to my knowledge that my effects had been brought to the establishment and deposited by Mr. Muller in the cellar of the building; upon two occasions for the parcel, I asked Mr. Muller and Madame Barrette's successors:—I received for answer, that they knew nothing about any parcel coming to my address. It is about two months and a-half since I applied for it, for the last time. Mr. Muller informed me in person that my effects were at the establishment. I did not speak to Mr. Belle on this subject.

I troubled myself very little about the kitchen. I came here to look for work and not to occupy myself with kitchen matters. I did not pay much attention to it. When I spoke to Madame Barrette about my parcel, she answered me very impudently, saying that she had nothing to my address, that she had received nothing for me, and to leave her alone.

To Mr. St. Pierre.—The food was of good quality but badly prepared.

Cross-examined by Mr. Belle.

I do not know personally if the parcel in question had been received. I said it upon the statement of Mr. Müller, who told me he had in his hands. It is three months I believe since he so told me, and after he had left the Emigration Home. I did not ask at the office, before Mr. Müller had left, if the parcel in question had been found.

During the time I was at the Emigration Home, I did not complain to Mr. Belle, that the cook did not behave to us in a becoming manner. If I did not complain it was through pride, and not because I had no reason to make complaint. The greater part of the trouble, and indeed all the trouble, came from Madame Barrette.

I was surprised, that I should be disturbed at my work to make a deposition so insignificant as the one I have made. As for the food and the sleeping accommodation, the thing was so palpable that no one could deny it.

Question.—Do you not believe that it is much more in the interest of emigration, and the emigrants themselves, to seek for work on their arrival in this country, as you yourself did, instead of inspecting the kitchen of the Emigration Home?

The complainants' Attorneys object to this question. They wish to elicit from the witness his appreciation upon facts, given as proof and established whereas in truth, they are not; and also because they wish to obtain from the witness his appreciation of facts foreign to the question.

Objection reserved.

Answer.—All the Emigrants did not come in the same condition that I did. I had no trade, and the difficulty in obtaining a place was greater. It was necessary that I should set about immediately to search for a place, whereas other emigrants having trades could be placed with much more facility, and not knowing the City, we had to report ourselves to the emigration agents, who through their acquaintances in the City could immediately establish us according to our capacities.

It is to my personal knowledge, that the employees of the Emigration Home did all in their power to place the emigrants who came in the same ship as myself. Mr. Muller did himself a great deal of harm in that way, and the presence of Mr. Belle's nephew who came twice a day to stimulate the servants with zeal.

The witness here closes his deposition, declaring the same to contain the truth, and hath signed, this twentieth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, at Montreal aforesaid.

[Signed,] ALBERT BRUN.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

[Attested,]

J. F. DUBREUIL,
Secretary, pro tempore.

And this Thursday, the twentieth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, the witness Hans Muller already examined, upon the same oath already taken, doth depose and say: It is to my personal knowledge that a parcel, addressed to Mr. Albert Brun, reached the Emigration Home with other luggage, about two or three weeks after Mr. Brun's arrival. When the parcel so arrived, Mr. Brun was not at the Emigration Home. I had the parcel in my hands. The parcel was deposited in the first story behind the kitchen, and near the gallery. The parcel was sent to Montreal upon my application for it by Mr. Thom, Emigration Agent at Quebec. I have seen the parcel since, it remained in the same place for several weeks. When it was raining, I asked Madame Barrette to take care of this parcel, and it was then put in the cellar. I afterwards saw the parcel for a long time in the cellar. No person came to claim the parcel while I was in the Emigration Home. Since then, I told Mr. Brun, the first time I met him, that the parcel in question had been deposited at the Emigration Office. I could not inform him earlier, because I did not know his address.

And the witness here closes his deposition, declaring the same to be true.

[Signed,] HANS MULLER.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

[Attested,]

J. F. DUBREUIL,
Secretary, pro tempore.

PRESENT:

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, Q. C.,

Commissioner.

LOUISE BONICHO, wife of Victor Archidet, of St. Hyacinthe, being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—I am from Paris, France. My husband is a cabinet-maker with Mr. Burke. I am nineteen years of age. I arrived in Canada with my husband in the month of July last; we came with a number of other emigrants; we went to the Emigration Home, Mr. Belle was then Emigration Agent. I lived eight days at the Emigration Home.

To Mr. Monk.—Some time after my arrival at the Emigration Home, I met Mr. Belle in the house. The first day he spoke to me very politely, and he promised me that he would give his attention to myself and my husband. He afterwards asked me if I would accept an invitation to sup with him in Montreal. I did not like to accept. I inferred from this proposition that Mr. Belle's intention towards me were not good. The invitation was given to me only. In answer to Mr. Belle, I said that I did not come to Canada to mis-conduct myself, he repeated his request several times, but I did not accept. That same evening, I communicated the circumstance to my husband. My husband said we should leave the house right-away. My husband found employment two days after our arrival at Montreal.

Our beds were not too clean, Mr. Belle would not even allow them to give us sheets, we complained, and the woman who keeps the house, gave us some. If the establishment was properly conducted it would be suitable enough.

To Mr. St. Pierre.—When Mr. Belle invited me to supper with him he told me it would be in one of the City hotels. I Complained to Mr. Belle that we were not very well served at table. He then said to me, if you wish I will take you to a hotel for supper. I refused, saying to him, that I did not want his offers, that I was rich enough to get a supper for myself [if I wanted it] at the hotel. These invitations of Mr. Belle were repeated several times, at

least three times upon the same occasion. I observed that Mr. Belle said "thee and thou" [*tutoyait*] to nearly everybody, even the women.

Cross-examined by Mr. Belle.

Question.—Did not Mr. Belle request you to take several meals at the hotel by yourself, (seeing that you complained of the food,) without speaking of accompanying you?

Answer.—Mr. Belle did not propose that I should go alone to the hotel for my food, but he always proposed to accompany me. It was two days after my arrival that he thus invited me to supper. My husband came every evening after his work to the Emigration Home. I remained at the home six days after Mr. Belle's invitation. Apart from my husband, I did not speak to any one upon the subject matter of this deposition, neither here, or at St. Hyacinthe. My husband only slept two nights at the Emigration Home.

The witness here closes her deposition, declaring the same to be true and faithful, and hath signed.

LOUISE ARCHIDET.

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

(Attested,)

J. F. DUBREUIL,

Secretary, pro tempore.

The same day, the twenty-first of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

VICTOR ARCHIDET, of St. Hyacinthe, commercial clerk, being duly sworn, doth depose and say :—I am thirty-one years of age. I arrived in Canada with my wife during the first days of July. I was with a number of other emigrants who came to Montreal; we went to the Emigration Home, Mr. Belle was then Emigration Agent. I saw him several times at the Emigration Home, I remained there two or three days. I afterwards went to Mr. Duvergiens.

To Mr. Monk.—The second day after our arrival at the Home, my wife complained to me, saying that Mr. Belle had made her a proposition that was not very proper—to take a meal with him at a restaurant without me. This invitation was to a dinner I think. This complaint was made to me during the afternoon, after Mr. Belle had left the office. I thereupon told my wife to continue to conduct herself as she had already done and that we would soon leave the Emigration Home. We left the Emigration Home the following day. Not having anything to support myself, I returned to the Home a few days afterwards to get my victuals, seeing that I had not touched any salary. Neither my wife or myself were refused our food. When my wife so complained to me, she appeared quite distressed, and surprised to think that Mr. Belle, occupying the position he did, would make such a proposal. Mr. Belle was in the habit of saying “thee” and “thou” to all the emigrants.

The establishment was not very cleanly kept, but we had something to eat. The bed-rooms were deplorable. I complained to Mr. Muller, who was then in the Emigration Home.

Cross-examined by Mr. Belle.

I remained a month in Montreal before going to St. Hyacinthe. I did not seek to enter into any explanations with Mr. Belle, because I wished to avoid all discussion, fearing I might lose my temper, get annoyed.

The witness here closes his deposition, declaring the same to be true.

VICTOR ARCHIDET.

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

[Attested,]

J. F. DUBREUIL,

Secretary, pro tempore.

The same day, twenty-first March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

MATHILDE DOTZLER, wife of César Nisini, of the City of Montreal, brazier, being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—I am twenty-seven years of age. I arrived in Montreal with my husband and little girl about six months ago. We came with other emigrants. Upon our arrival we went to the Emigration Home, where we remained about eight days. Mr. Belle was then Emigration Agent.

To Mr. Monk.—On our arrival at the Emigration Home, about one o'clock in the morning, and having travelled all day without food, we asked for something to eat. They gave us a cup of coffee, which was nothing but hot water with a little coffee in it. They told us they couldn't give us anything else. It was emigrants who got out of their beds to warm the coffee for us. Mr. Müller said he was willing enough to give us something else, but he couldn't. The following morning they asked us to scrub the floors. It was Madame Barrette who made this request. She said it was part of the discipline of the Home. We told her we were fatigued enough from our voyage without washing the floors. Madame Barrette then said we should go to the rooms up-stairs, so that we would not dirty the rooms down-stairs. We did in fact go up-stairs. We were five women with our three children. One of the women fell through the ceiling, which was broken. She was a woman fortunately a little robust. The room in which we were put was dirty and offensive. There were some boards upon which we threw mattresses. We had our children with us. I had some trouble with Madame Barrette for a tub in which to wash my child's linen. She refused to lend it and hid the tub. I also asked her for a sheet, because the one on the bed was dirty. She replied that I should be satisfied to have one at all, because at that time they only gave out one sheet and no quilts.

One day I went, as was the custom, at noon, to get a dinner ticket. Mr. Belle refused me the ticket, saying I should not have a ticket, because my husband was working. I then reminded him

that my husband was not working. He said for that day I would get a ticket, but none on the following day. I continued for three days to live in the establishment after that, and they gave me my food. The emigrants were very badly treated by Mr. Belle, who said "thee" and "thou" to them all. One day, when I was at dinner, an emigrant came in and commenced to eat. Mr. Belle made him leave the table, saying to him that he should serve the others, and eat afterwards. When Mr. Belle saw Madame Barrette ready to serve, he made an emigrant get up to do the work in the place of Madame Barrette.

Madame Barrette's manner was insolent. She would send us about our business whenever we asked her for anything.

The kitchen was dirty every where. The house was constantly in disorder.

To Mr. St. Pierre.—I had as much food as I wanted, but it was not well prepared.

The Attorneys for the Defence declining to cross-examine the witness who here closes her deposition, declaring the same to contain the truth, and hath signed.

Femme NISINI.

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

[Attested,]

J. F. DUBREUIL,

Secretary, pro tempore.

Before noon, on the day, month and year above mentioned, the present investigation is adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of this day, Friday, the twenty-first of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

[Attested,]

J. F. DUBREUIL,

Secretary, pro tempore.

At three o'clock in the afternoon of the said day, Friday, the twenty-first of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

PRESENT:

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, Q. C.,

Commissioner.

CÉSAR NISINI, of the City of Montreal, brazier, being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—I am thirty-seven years of age. I am a native of Rome. I am an Italian. I arrived in Canada the 8th of October last. On reaching Montreal, I went with my wife and child to the Emigration Home. We got there after midnight. We numbered almost a dozen of emigrants I believe. Mr. Müller received us at the Emigration Home.

To Mr. Monk.—Seeing that we had nothing to eat at Quebec, as there was no place for us, they told us we would get refreshment on our arrival at Montreal. Seeing that the train was about to leave for Montreal we embarked immediately. We got a piece of bread at Point Levis, which we ate on the way. On our arrival at Montreal, the only food we received was a cup of hot water with a little coffee in it. I spoke to Mr. Muller, who told me he could not do more, because he had no orders, and that it was against the rules of the Home to do more.

The Saturday evening following our arrival, Madame Barrette informed me she had received an order from Mr. Belle, that I should procure lodgings. I complained of this to Mr. Muller, who told me I had no orders to receive from Madame Barrette. The Tuesday following, on returning from my work, I found my wife galled because she had been refused her food at noon. On the Wednesday morning I spoke to Mr. Belle, in the presence of Mr. Muller, saying to him: Mr. Belle, they had refused to give my wife any food to eat. He answered, saying, that he had instructions to follow, and that he could not keep a family longer in the Emigration Home. I told him I was without means, and that he ought not to put a family in the middle of the street. I was then employed at the *Maison Dorée*, replacing another, for

three days. The following Tuesday I tried at Mr. Garth's. I have been at Mr. Garth's since then. I left the Emigration Home the Saturday after my arrival. I remained in it about nine days.

I understood the rules of the home to be that we should leave it 24 hours after finding employment.

When we left the Emigration Home we were without any means whatever.

Emigrants are not very well treated at the Emigration Home. We sleep on mattresses stretched on boards. The quilts might be large enough for two, but they have to serve five. It was impossible to undress to go to bed. The women were in a room separate from that occupied by the men. I knew of no exception to this. There was but one sheet dirty and disgusting. The room and the mattresses were in the same state. In the conversation above mentioned with Mr. Belle I said to him: "If you have your instructions to carry out I have my engagement, and that I would address myself to the proper authorities, *à qui de droit*. He then said to me that I did not know what my engagement was, and I should try to get anything at all to do. I then proved to Mr. Belle, by Mr. Muller, who was present, that I had applied for a place as farm servant. He said "on that condition I will keep you at the Home." This occurred the Wednesday after my arrival. It was the morning of that day, (Wednesday,) that I made a trial at Mr. Garth's. I now earn at Mr. Garth's ten dollars a week, and I am satisfied. In a few days he will increase my pay.

The same disorder of which I spoke as being in the rooms, existed all over the establishment.

I should also say that Mr. Belle is not very polite to the emigrants, because he says "thee" and "thou" to everybody, with a haughtiness of tone which we feel.

Cross-examined.

The attorneys for the defence declare they have no cross-

questions to put to the witness, who persists in the present deposition, declaring the same to contain the truth.

[Signed,] NISINI, CESAR.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

[Attested,]

J. F. DUBREUIL,
Secretary, pro tempore.

The same day, Friday, twenty-first March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

GUSTAVE LEVALLE, of the City of Montreal, arm-chair maker, being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—I am a Frenchman, and forty-three years of age. I arrived in Montreal the fifth of September last. On my arrival I went to the Emigration Home. I am a married man. I left my wife at Paris with a little girl nine years of age. I came with a number of other emigrants. Mr. Belle was then Emigration Agent. I lived five days at the Home, until the moment I found work. Thirty-five of us arrived at Quebec. At Montreal we numbered about twenty-five or thirty. I believe we were all French. On our arrival Mr. Muller received us at the railway terminus. We reached Montreal about one o'clock in the afternoon. We were seventeen hours in the railway cars without eating.

To Mr. Monk.—On our arrival here we were very hungry. The table was laid when we arrived, that is, with tea, without sugar, because Mr. Belle expressly forbid the giving of sugar to emigrants arriving. It was the cook who told me so in answer to the remark made by me to her. I complained to Mr. Muller, who sent out of the Home for some. The sugar only arrived after we had left the table. They also gave us some bread and butter, but I cannot say if they gave us any meat. The butter was thinly spread on the bread. We were worse fed than soldiers who get only thirteen *sous* a day. The dinner ordinarily consisted of broth, soup, potatoes, and water. I did not like the

kitchen, nor did I like the food, because it was badly prepared. It was disgusting to me to look at it.

As for the sleeping accommodation, we slept on mattresses infected, and filled with vermin. The straw seemed to be in them for a long time. We could not shake it up, it was like manure. They did not give us any covering for these mattresses. The room in which we slept was in a hangard in the yard. The rain come through it. We were obliged to move our beds about to escape getting wet.

I never went into the bath-room to wash myself, I only went to it to draw water. The bath-room was very dirty. With the exception of these apartments, I did not go into any other rooms in the house. The water closets could not be used because of their filthy condition, there were two compartments, one for the men and another for the women. But we could easily see from the women's compartment what was passing in the men's compartment.

I had only two *sous* on my arrival at Montreal, to pay for the carriage of my luggage, I was obliged to borrow two francs. It was Mr. Bossange, emigration agent for Canada, at Paris, who directed us to go to Montreal. I found employment about eight days or thereabout, after my arrival, at Mr. Thompson's, cabinet maker, Montreal. For the past three months I have been paid at the rate of ten dollars and a-half per week.

On my arrival at the Home, I saw a parcel undone with a child's wheel-barrow on top of it. This package was inside at the foot of the stairs. My attention was directed towards it because it had been there for several days. About fifteen days afterwards I again saw the same parcel in the yard exposed to the weather. My attention was more particularly directed to this parcel, because one of my friends claimed a boy he had lost which has since been lost, judging from the description given to me last evening by Mr. Brun, I am inclined to believe the parcel in question is that lost by Mr. Brun.

Cross-examined by Mr. Belle.

I did not notify Mr. Muller that there was a parcel knocking about the yard. When I saw the parcel for the last time in the yard, Mr. Muller was then in the Emigration Home. The complainants declare that they will not have any other witnesses to examine before Monday next. The present *enquete* is adjourned until Monday, the twenty-fourth of March instant, at 3 o'clock P. M., and the witness declares his present deposition true, and hath signed.

LEVALLÉ.

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

[Attested,]

J. F. DUBREUIL,

Secretary, pro tempore.

MONDAY, the twenty-fourth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

PRESENT :

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, Q. C.,

Commissioner.

ANNETTE CULAT, wife of Jean Boget, of the City of Montreal, stone-cutter, being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—I am a French woman from Savoie. We arrived in Montreal, myself, my husband, and my little child on the eighth of October last. On our arrival, we went down to the Emigration Home; we arrived about eleven o'clock at night; we remained fifteen days at the Emigration Home. My husband found work eighteen days after our arrival at Montreal.

To Mr. St. Pierre.—We passed the first night of our arrival at the Emigration Home. We took our breakfast there. They served us with coffee and bread and butter. The coffee was not good, one would have said it was water. We did not find the

Emigration Home very clean. I was not satisfied with the treatment I received. There was no stint of food, but it was badly prepared. I myself peeled potatoes in the same bucket as that used to wash the linen. I found vermin in my child's head the morning following that of my arrival. My child never had any before. I did not see any in the beds, nor did I capture any. While I was there I saw Miss Leonie Barrette. She is the daughter of the cook who conducts the Emigration Home. She appears to be almost twenty-years of age. She is not married. I did not observe if this young woman was *enceinte* or not. I quarrelled with both her and her mother. The cause of our quarrel was, the young girl carried away a box containing thread, needles, and other things which I had brought from France. The box was left by myself in a window, in the room in which we eat our food. It was a little convenience which women travelling are accustomed to carry with them. It was still there in the evening, but not there on the following morning. I demanded it from Madame Barrette and her daughter. They said on answer that they were not in the habit of touching anything belonging to emigrants. I made enquiry about it from all the emigrants, and a young man, an emigrant, told me where it was. He told me he saw it in the hands of Madame Barrette's little boy, who was playing with it. This little boy is about seven years of age. I asked him where he found the box, and he told me in his sister's room, Leonie Barrette. The following day, at noon, upon my husband's arrival, I asked him to institute a search for the box. Madame Barrette asked him into the room where the box was hidden to look for it, and to prove to my husband that it was not there. But Madame Barrette was careful enough to go into the room alone before us. A few minutes afterwards, I found the box at my room door, but it was empty. I told Madame Barrette, that I would complain both of her and her daughter's conduct, to Mr. Belle. She told me, she could put me out in Mr. Belle's name, and that I would gain nothing by speaking to Mr. Belle. Thinking she told me the truth, I did not make any complaints to Mr. Belle. The box in question was small and could be easily hidden under one's dress, if they so desired it. Madame Barrette was polite to the men, but not to the women. Personally I do not complain of Mr. Belle, and I did not notice his conduct towards

other women. I observed that Mr. Belle was in the habit of saying "thee" and "thou" to nearly everybody. I remarked that Madame Barrette's little boy, spoken of above, was a cross child, and caused trouble with the children of those emigrants who had any. Three days after my husband commenced to work, Mr. Belle refused to give me the ticket necessary to obtain my dinner, saying I had no more claim to it, seeing that my husband was working. I informed my husband of this fact, and upon his representation of our case to Mr. Belle, we were again allowed to dine at the Home that day, notifying us that we should leave the following day, Saturday. We dined on the Saturday without a ticket. A gentleman allowed us to pass. We left Saturday evening. When myself and husband arrived, we had but two dollars. My husband had not, the day we left the Home, yet touched the three days' wages he had earned. We returned to the Home the day following that upon which we left it, my husband, myself and my child. Mr. Müller, in the absence of Mr. Belle, gave us something to eat. My child was then eighteen months old. It died last week.

Cross-examined.

The Attorneys for the defence declare they have no cross-questions to put to the witness, who here closes her deposition, declaring the same to be true, and hath signed.

[Signed,]

ANNETTE CULAT.

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

(Attested,)

J. F. DUBREUIL,

Secretary, pro tempore.

The same day, Monday, the twenty-fourth March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

JEAN BOGET, of the City of Montreal, stone-cutter, being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—I am thirty years of age. I am from Chambéry, France, (Savoie.)

I arrived in Canada on the seventh or eighth of October last. I believe about 15 or 20 emigrants arrived with us. On reaching Montreal, myself, my wife and my child, went to the Emigration Home. We got there between half-past eleven o'clock and midnight. It was Mr. Muller who received us on our arrival.

The second day after our arrival, four of us, stone-cutters, went out together; we went in company with Mr. Muller through all the stone-cutting yards to try to get work. We were refused everywhere, because they had no stone. Without this it appeared as if we could get work; about eight days after my arrival, I obtained employment at Mr. Johnston's, as a cutter of soft stone. I remained there about five weeks. I lived at the Emigration Home about eight days after getting work, but it was with difficulty we got tickets for our food, Mr. Belle having notified my wife that we must leave the Emigration Home, as I had employment, and find lodgings elsewhere. He made no difficulty about giving us tickets that day, but he warned us that we should get no tickets for the future. The next day at noon I went in person to Mr. Belle to beg of him to allow us to remain at the Home for a few days, as I had no means to hire a room, the rent of which must be paid in advance, that I had neither furniture or working-tools. Mr. Belle said I could remain that day, but that I should leave on the following, that other emigrants would arrive, for whom it was necessary to make room. He gave me tickets that day, and my meals were given to me.

I lived fifteen days at the Home, when I left it I had then been working eight days.

The food was plentiful enough, but it was badly prepared. The beds were not clean. Two days after our arrival at the Home, my wife found vermin in my child's head, I told her to remove the sheets and to use our own, which we had in a trunk. We slept on our own sheets during the remainder of the time we were at the Home.

Madame Barrette and her daughter conducted the establishment. They were much more strict than Mr. Belle.

I believe all emigrants arriving in this country during the good season can get employment. I am now employed, and when I can get work, I can earn from two dollars and three quarters to three dollars a day.

Cross-examined.

The attorneys for the defence declare they have no question to put to the witness, who persists in his present deposition, declaring the same to be true, and hath signed.

[Signed,] BOGET, JEAN.

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

[Attested,]

J. F. DUBREUIL,

Secretary, pro tempore.

The same day, Monday the twenty-fourth March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

ISIDORE PERROT, of the City of Montreal, chemist, being duly sworn, doth depose and say :—I am thirty-five years of age. I am a Frenchman from the department of Yonne. I arrived at Montreal the 2nd or 3rd of July last. I came here alone. I left my wife in France. I have sent for her since then. On arriving at Montreal I went down to the Emigration Home, where I lived for nearly fifteen days.

It was fifteen or eighteen days before I found a place where I could practice my profession.

To Mr. Monk.—The food in the establishment was exceedingly bad. In the morning we had a slice of bread upon which they pretended to put butter, coffee or tea without sugar. At noon, a little meat with vegetables very badly prepared. The first arrivals had the good luck to be better served than the last comers, who very often only got dry bread, when they were a little late. The meat was very good but badly prepared; we had sufficient bread. I observed frequently that the place was

exceedingly dirty, as well at the table as in the kitchen. The sleeping rooms were something disgraceful, we had camp beds with a mattress exceedingly dirty and full of vermin. While I was at the Emigration Home, I complained to Mr. Muller, to the cook and to Mr. Belle himself, of the condition in which we found the Home. The bath-room was used to wash in by everybody. Three-fourths of the time there was no soap, and the same towel was in use for eight days. It was used by all, and was exceedingly dirty.

The day after my arrival from Quebec, the second time, (because I had returned to look after my luggage), on entering through the corridor leading to the yard, I saw Mr. Belle holding Miss Leoni Barrette's hand in his, and his other hand was upon the shoulder of Miss Leoni Barrette. I noticed that Mr. Belle was more polite to the ladies than to the men. He used the expressions "thee" and "thou" to nearly everybody, and spoke to us very impolitely. One day there were four emigrants at dinner, Mr. Belle asked them if they had found work. They said "no," and if they did not find any, they would go to the United States. Mr. Belle then said, they had no right to eat, and that they should leave the table immediately. These four emigrants finished their meal and left for the United States the same evening. One day we mentioned to Mr. Belle that we had been well treated at Quebec, and badly here. Mr. Belle made answer that at Quebec the emigrants were too well fed, and if they fed them as well here, there would be no end to giving to them. Every day it was the same thing, for the one as for the other, the same scenes were renewed. One day Madame Barrette told me that Mr. Belle had forbidden her to give me anything to eat. I replied that Mr. Belle was old enough to do his own errands. The next day Mr. Belle called me to him, saying that I had been long enough in the establishment, and that I should leave. I said I had a letter from Mr. Bossange, in which he promised me lodgings and food, until I obtained employment or at least until I could work.

In my opinion, I am convinced that in consequence of the unclean condition in which the Emigration Home is kept, that

out of 500 emigrants who have stayed there—350 have gone to live in the United States.

Emigrants find on entering, a placard notifying them that if within 48 hours they have not found work they must leave the Home. This placard, with the treatment we receive in the establishment, contributes not a little to discourage emigrants and to make them go away. It should be a place more intended for emigrants than for mendicants.

To Mr. St. Pierre.—My wife arrived in Canada on the fourth of September. She did not go to the Emigration Home. She had a young lady with her, and I did not wish to let them go to the Home, unless with the approbation of her father, who was there.

Examined by Mr. Belle.

Question.—Have you got with you Mr. Bossange's letter of recommendation of which you spoke ?

Answer.—Certainly—I am the bearer of it.

Question.—Will you produce it before this Commission ?

Answer.—I am willing to give a copy of the letter, but I will not part with it, as it might be useful to me. I have already shewn the letter to Mr. Belle, who read it and then returned it to me.

The letter is here produced, and communication of it given to Mr. Belle's attorneys.

Question.—Have meetings been held in your workshop against Mr. Belle ?

Answer.—No.

Re-examined.

By Mr. St. Pierre.—Please state, yes or no, if certain meetings have been held relating to emigration ; and yes, or no, if at these meetings the name of Mr. Belle was brought up.

Answer.—Two meetings of emigrants were held I believe in the month of February last, in my workshop. The object of these

meetings was to prepare a complaint we had to make to the Government, touching the treatment we had received at the Emigration Home. It was to collect the complaints each had to make against emigration at Montreal.

To Mr. Belle.—I cannot say who proposed these meetings. There were several of us present, and all of the same opinion. At the first meeting, a chairman was appointed. I was named chairman of the meeting.

There was no chairman at the second meeting. There were two secretaries, Mr. Roncorps and Mr. Leduc, who wrote down the complaints made by the emigrants. Each emigrant signed his complaint.

The defence declares they have no other questions to put to the witness, who here closes his deposition, declaring the same to be true, and hath signed.

[Signed,]

PERROT, FILS.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

And the present investigation is adjourned to Wednesday, the twenty-fourth of March instant, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

[Attested,]

J. F. DUBREUIL,
Secretary, pro tempore.

WEDNESDAY, the twenty-sixth of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

PRESENT:

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, Q. C.,
Commissioner.

Mr. Monk closes his examination without waver of, but reserving his right to examine Benjamin Clement, the former super-

intendent of the Emigrants' Home, Montreal, (and whose evidence has already been commenced,) at any time before the close of this enquiry.

Mr. St. Pierre, on the part of the public minister, reserves the right to examine the said witness, if there is any occasion, and if he deems it necessary.

The Attorneys for Mr. Belle object to this reservation, without waiver of the examination of Clement, in counter proof, if it is required.

The Attorneys for the defence having declared that they will be ready to commence their *enquête* to-morrow, Thursday, the present enquiry is adjourned to Thursday, the twenty-seventh of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

[Attested,]
J. F. DUBREUIL,
Secretary, pro tempore.

THURSDAY, the twenty-seventh day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

PRESENT :

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, *Q. C.*,
Commissioner.

MARIE MICHEL, wife of Joseph Gasché, of the City of Montreal, shoemaker, being duly sworn, doth depose and say :

I am thirty-seven years of age. I have been in Montreal since the 13th of June last. I arrived here with my husband and a number of emigrants. On our arrival we went down to the Emigration Home. Mr. Belle was then the chief agent, and Mr Muller sub-agent. I lived three days at the Home.

To Mr. Belle.—I know Madame Parotte. I made her acquaintance at the Home of Emigration. Five weeks after I had left the Emigration Home, I saw Madame Parotte in the house of a Frenchman in Craig street. She was making a chemise at one Mr. Laurent's. The lady of the house had given her two days' work, as her husband had left her without means. I then had an opportunity of speaking to Madame Parotte about the Emigration Home and of Mr. Belle. Our conversation turned on Mr. Belle. Madame Parotte said to me that she had no complaint to make against him, that false rumours had gone abroad about her and Mr. Belle, but they were all untrue, that Mr. Belle had always acted seriously towards her, as he did with everybody; that if these rumours had been true, Mr. Belle would not have left her in her present misery; that her husband had been a month absent, working on the railways, and that a gentleman had been good enough and charitable enough to lodge her for charity. She also said it was an unfortunate affair, that her husband, as it was, despised her, without having her reputation attacked about Mr. Belle, that Mr. Belle was innocent of everything that had been said against him. I have not seen her since. I understood that Mr. Belle had always been perfectly reserved towards this lady, and that she had no complaint of any kind to make against him, that he had behaved properly towards her as he did towards everybody.

This conversation, to the best of my belief, took place about the month of August.

During the time I remained at the Emigration Home, I had no reason to complain of the establishment. I had no complaint upon the cleanliness of the Home or against the food. Mr. Jean de Meulenerre was then the keeper of the Home. His wife did the cooking. The Home was always clean.

Since leaving the Home, I have returned to it very often. I have had many occasions to see the upper and lower parts of the house, since Madame Barrette is in charge. I did not find the house badly kept. It is impossible to keep it cleaner, seeing that it is occupied by so many people. The floors are very clean, and

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are scrubbed twice or three times a week. I saw the food cooked, and it was very cleanly prepared, as well as in any ordinary family kitchen. During Madame Barrette's time I frequently went to the Home, and often took my meals there, which were as good as if I had prepared them myself.

From what I saw at the Home, as well during my residence in it, as from my visits paid, since I left it, I consider that emigrants are well treated in every particular; no preference is shewn to any one. Our family at the Home consisted of four persons, my husband, my father-in-law, my daughter and myself. I had occasion to notice how emigrants are treated by Mr. Belle. He came to the Home in the morning, at noon, and in the evening. He was always polite to the emigrants. During the whole time we lived at the Home we had no complaint to make against Mr. Belle. My husband found employment the day following that of our arrival.

I found the beds very clean, and I never saw any vermin. I did not hear any person complain.

Seventeen of us arrived at the same time. There were already other emigrants at the Home. Altogether we numbered about twenty or twenty-two. I see very little of the emigrants arriving in Montreal. I live in Dominique street.

I am from Lorraine, my husband comes from Poitiers. We left Lorraine to come to Canada. We received letters of recommendation from Mr. Bossange to Mr. Lesage. My husband earns a dollar and a-half a day here. At home, in Lorraine, he earned from three francs to three francs fifty *centimes* per day.

Cross-examined.

By Mr. Monk.—I found Madame Parotte lady-like. I have nothing to say against her. I do not believe she would make a statement that was not true. I believe that, what she would say under oath would be true. I believe her to be a woman of good conduct, and I have no complaint to make against her. I went before a magistrate about a month ago to make oath to certain facts.

I was conducted there by a doctor who lives with Mr. Belle. I believe I went to St. Vincent street. I was alone with him (the doctor.) We were talking one day about Madame Parotte. It was said that she spoke badly, that is, she spoke badly of Mr. Belle. I then said it was not true, that she had not so spoken to me. I then spoke to my husband who appeared to know about the affair, my husband spoke to the doctor and he also asked me if I could make oath to these facts. I said "yes" I believe it was before Mr. Morissette that I made my affidavit. I do not know if my husband is employed by Mr. Belle to look after witnesses. I do not know the name of Mr. Reuter's coachman, nor am I aware that my husband knows him either. I know Mr. Guillard, he is a Frenchman. We crossed in the same ship. I know that he was employed in Montreal as a coachman, and that he leaves to-day for Boston. Madame Parotte told me that the rumours current about herself and Mr. Belle, and of which I have spoken in my examination in chief, were all false. It was said that Madame Parotte was intimate with Mr. Belle, and that they were having improper intercourse together. She told me it was false, that if it was true, Mr. Belle would not leave her in her present miserable condition, that the rumours circulating against her were caused through jealousy.

We commenced conversation together, I was the first to speak. I knew nothing of these rumours before the conversation I had with Madame Parotte. She and I were the only persons present at this conversation.

I swear that during the time we were at the Emigration Home, we had no complaint to make either against the Home or against Mr. Belle, nor could my husband complain. I did not hear any person complain of the Home during the three days that I lived in it.

Nor have we any complaint to make against Mr. Muller, who received us upon our arrival at the Home. My reason for returning to the Emigration Home, after I had left it, was, because Madame Barrette, the present cook at the Home, and I, crossed in the same ship, and we are like two sisters. We are two great

friends. I know Miss Leoni Barrette as I know the mother. I know she is the daughter of Madame Barrette's first marriage. I saw this young lady for the last time eight days after new year's day. I do not know where she is at present. Her mother told me she had gone to her home in Belgium. My husband never worked as a shoemaker for Mr. Belle. He always worked for the shops.

The doctor in question, who asked me to make my deposition, told me he had spoken to Mr. Belle, who told him to ask me to make my deposition. The doctor took me in a sleigh and brought me as far as the garden before the Church of Notre Dame. It was Mr. Morissette, notary, who wrote down my deposition. The Emigration Home is not infected with vermin to my knowledge, any vermin which might have been on my child were caught in the ship. Nearly all the emigrants, as far as I knew, were the bearers of letters of recommendation.

The witness here closes her deposition, declaring the same to be true, and further saith that she cannot sign.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

(Attested,)

J. F. DUBREUIL,
Secretary, pro tempore.

The same day, Thursday, the twenty-seventh March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

ADÈLE AMIOTTE, wife of Félix Gagnon, of Montreal, labourer, being duly sworn, doth depose and say :

I am thirty-one years of age, I am a native of Canada, I was not with the number of emigrants.

To Mr. Belle.—I have resided for nearly two years at No. 31, College street. I know a man named Gustave Joseph Gustave Vancaster; I also know his wife. I have known them for nearly

seven months. They lived with me for two months less ten days. I sub-let a room to them. I had occasion to know, during the time they remained with us, the woman Vancaster. From what I know I would not believe her on oath. The reasons for which I would not believe her on oath are the following:—Because Madame Vancaster came to my house (it was on a Saturday.) I was reproached for having leased a room to her. On the Sunday, I went to see her. It was in the upper part of the house. She commenced by saying to me that she thought there were not as many pigs in Montreal as heretofore. She told me, she had found employment as a servant at Mr. Belle's, but that she would not hire herself either with Mr. Belle or Mr. Bernard, because they were two women hunters (*taponneux de femmes.*) I understood her to say that these gentlemen loved the women too much.

About fifteen days after the conversation above alluded to, she came and danced at Pierre Gagnon's wedding. Madame Vancaster danced a very indecent dance. Madame Arnaud, Madame Henri and others, also danced an indecent dance, one I never seen danced in this country. By the words "indecent dance," I mean that we should not in dancing lift the dress high enough to see the chemise. Of those who danced this dance Madame Vancaster lifted her foot the highest, and she told us that if she liked she could lift her foot as high as a man's nose. The people of the house begged of them to dance another dance, but Madame Arnaud said she would not dance again with Madame Vancaster, that she did not find that dance proper. Mr. Vancaster was not present. She looked out of the window to see if her husband was coming. I asked her why she was going away. She told me it would not do for her husband to find her dancing because she had told him, she was ill. The husband came home the following morning. She came down stairs to my apartments begging of me to go to her husband about the dancing of the previous evening. She said that some one had found out her husband on his beat as a policeman and informed him that his wife had danced a dance of the bad women of Paris. I went up stairs. She requested me to say to her husband that she had danced like all the others. Mr. Vancaster asked me if it was true she had danced a dance in which she had lifted her foot so

high. I said to Mr. Vanceaster in reply, that his wife danced like all the other women. She told me, before I went up-stairs, that if her husband knew she had danced such a dance he would leave her. Every day during which Madame Vanceaster lived in my house, she said that Canadians were very easy to debauch, that she could debauch no matter who, that she could sleep with any man. I did not see her do wrong with any body. I speak the language she used in my presence. My husband met with an accident last Autumn, and he was detained in the house. Madame Vanceaster then came to our house. A lady came to the house to lease it. I left Madame Vanceaster and my husband together while I went up-stairs to shew a room to the lady. I returned, and Madame Vanceaster said to me, "Are you not afraid that I would have have slept with your husband." I said to her in reply that the state in which my husband then was (having broken both his legs,) he was not dangerous. She said that "my husband's legs were broken, but the knees were good, and that if she had wished, it would not have taken a long time to make it right,"—*rétablir*.

Later, I asked Madame Vanceaster, one day, to cure one of my sisters-in-law, (she said she was able to cure.) She asked me if my sister-in-law had a syringe.

Madame Vanceaster called the other lessees of the house, who were emigrants like herself, murderers, assassins, robbers, people of the Commune (Communists); that Mr. and Madame Arnaud were not married, that they knew each other for the first time on the ship while crossing. Since then Mr. and Madame Arnaud have shewn me their marriage certificate.

I believe Madame Vanceaster to be an habitual liar and a dangerous woman. From what I know of her, and from what I have seen and heard, I can say nothing good of her conduct. I have never seen Madame Vanceaster drunk, but I have seen her take strong liquor—rye. She was ready to accuse everybody. She said the whole world were scoundrels. I have seen her walking arm and arm with another man, who was not her husband—a Mr. Henri. The last named did not come when Mr.

Vancouver was at home, he selected his time to come when he was absent. Her language was very improper, everybody was surprised. I would not for five hundred dollars that Madame Vancouver had come to live in my house. Our house was beginning to have a bad reputation when these strangers came to live in it.

It is to my knowledge that Madame Vancouver's husband, while he was living in my house, wished to leave his wife, in consequence of her bad conduct.

I know a Frenchman named Isidore Perrot. He makes paper. I see him here present. He lived in my house during the same time as Mr. and Madame Vancouver. This Perrot came one day to my house since this investigation is going on. He told me that Mr. Belle received three shillings a day for each emigrant, that he treated them like dogs, and that he put the balance in his pocket; that Mr. Belle would soon lose his place. Perrot told us he was working to make Mr. Belle lose his place. My husband and one of my consins were present at this conversation. Perrot has not returned to my house since St. Michael's day.

It being six o'clock in the evening of the said twenty-seventh March, 1873, the examination of this witness is continued to tomorrow, Friday, the twenty-eighth March, 1873, at three o'clock in the afternoon. And she declares she cannot sign.

(Attested,) C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner
J. F. DUBREUIL,
Secretary, pro tempore.

This twenty-eighth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

PRESENT :

CHARLES A LEBLANC, *Q. C.*,
Commissioner.

The deposition of Madame Gagnon is continued, as follows:

To Mr. Belle.—I do not believe Madame Vancaster on oath, as I have above stated, because she is a woman of bad reputation, of bad character, and because I have heard her myself accuse other persons of falsehood.

Cross-examined.

By Mr. Monk.—I said in my examination in chief that I was wrong in allowing these strangers (Madame Vancaster) into my house. I have nothing to say against her husband. Madame Henri, also a stranger, told me I did wrong in allowing Madame Vancaster into my house, because we had only to look at her to see, that she had not the appearance of a respectable woman. Madame Henri has been absent from Montreal since last St. Michael's day. I have nothing to say against Mr. Vancaster. He is a very estimable person. He appeared to me to be a well-conducted man, sober. I did not observe that Mr. Vancaster told falsehoods, and from what I know I would believe him on oath. I have not had a quarrel with Madame Vancaster. I was not jealous of her, nor had I any reason to be.

I danced at the wedding in question, but I do not believe Madame Vancaster was present when I danced. My husband has not made anything for six months, not since he has been disabled.

I have already given my evidence before an advocate. I did not take an oath. I do not know where the office of this advocate is, nor do I know his name. What I had to say was taken down in writing. My husband did not go with me. I went to the office of this advocate with Madame Barrette and Madame Pelzer, and upon their invitation. It was Madame Pelzer who spoke first upon this occasion, and who said: "You know what Madame Vancaster says about a man she cured." Nothing else was spoken of. I have not received any money, nor has any money been promised to me. Madame Pelzer has been living in my house for about seven months. Madame Barrette is accustomed to visit my house. I work for her. She got some sewing for me. Madame Barrette did not make me any present. The baskets she brought were work-baskets. Mr. Belle came once to my house

about three weeks after New Year's day. He asked me if it was I who had let a room to Mr. and Madame Vancaster. I answered "Yes." It was a long time after this visit that I went to the advocate to make my declaration. I went in a vehicle to make my declaration with Madame Barrette and my nephew, Zacharie Gagnon. It was Madame Barrette who came for me. I do not know who paid for the vehicle. It was not me. Madame Vancaster never told me she had been badly treated by Mr. Belle.

One day Madame Vancaster spoke to me about the people of her country. She said that in this country we were too scrupulous, much more so than the people in her country. She added that nevertheless she did not expect to find in this country such hogs as Mr. Belle and Mr. Bernard, and that she would rather stay at home than go into their service. I understood from the words she used that Mr. Belle put his hands upon the women's shoulders. When I stated that Madame Vancaster had danced an indecent dance, I mean to say that she raised her feet too high. I do not know a Belgian dance. My only reason for saying to Mr. Vancaster that his wife danced like all the others was, because I did not wish to be the cause of a divorce between her and her husband. Apart from the dance of which I have just spoken, I observed that Madame Vancaster did not dress in a decent manner. She wore her clothes untied. I know that she has been often sick. I know that in my house, she has been sick for eight days. At home, I am good friends with every body, with Madame Vancaster as with the others.

Nearly each time I had a conversation with Madame Vancaster it was upon light subjects. One day I upbraided her for always speaking in this manner, and asked her how she could go to her confession. She answered, saying that confession did not trouble her.

I saw Madame Vancaster take liquor but once. I do not know if she was ill that day.

Although I said in my examination in chief that I would not for 500 dollars Madame Vancaster had lived in my house, I did not lose a single sou, nor a single lessee by her presence. But it

might have been the cause of loss. The Henri's, husband and wife, left together. All my lodgings are let.

I cannot give the exact date of Mr. Perrot's visit. I think it is four or five weeks since then. I swear positively that I have correctly related, in my examination in chief, the conversation I had with Mr. Perrot.

I do not know if Madame Vancaster has sworn falsely.

By Mr. St. Pierre.—Mr. Belle came once to my house. When he so came, he asked me if I had leased to Madame Vancaster—I said “yes.”

The witness here closes her deposition, persisting therein, and declaring the same to be true. And she states that she cannot sign.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

(Attested,)

J. F. DUBREUIL,
Secretary, pro tempore.

The same day, Friday, the twenty-eighth March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

MARIE GAGNON, Spinster, aged twenty years, being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—I am the neice of the last witness, who has just been examined. When Mr. and Madame Vancaster came to live at Mr. Gagnon's, in College street, I lived in the same house with my brothers. I lived in the house during all the time that Mr. and Madame Vancaster remained in it. I only left it about five weeks ago. During the first days of Madame Vancaster's residence in the house, I went to her room as often as twice a day, until I observed that she was not a woman to visit. I had ceased my visits about two or three weeks before they left. To do a good turn, render a service, Madame Vancaster is always ready, but for other things I have no confidence in her. I do not believe she has a good moral character. She has not got the habit

of telling the truth. She contradicts herself. She is very free in her language, more especially before young men. I have seen her take strong liquor twice, but I have never saw her drunk. I saw Mr. Müller with Madame Vancaster at Mr. Pelzer's, one of the lodgers in the house, since the commencement of this enquiry. They were speaking of the investigation. I followed them immediately into Mr. Pelzer's room. They took a glass together. I do not know what Mr. Muller and Madame Vancaster came there to do, but they had a difficulty together.

From my acquaintance with Madame Vancaster, and from what I know of her, I would not believe her on oath.

I know Mr. Arnaud. I lived about three weeks at his house this winter. He is a Frenchman. These persons were emigrant lodgers in the same house. I did not sleep there. I went during the day to assist Madame Arnaud with her cooking.

Cross-examined.

By Mr. St. Pierre.—I had been good friends with Madame Vancaster. I have not had any difficulty with her. I said to somebody that I would go and give evidence for her if I was called upon. I was not called upon to do so. I have heard it said that Madame Vancaster was not willing to call me. Mr. Belle asked me to give evidence for him, and I came. If Madame Vancaster had asked me to give evidence for her, I would have done so, and I would have told the truth. I was in good friends with her when I said this. It is since she has left the house.

I would not believe a public woman, a prostitute on oath. My reason for not believing Madame Vancaster on oath is because she is a very light woman—*femme bien légère*.

It was to Madame Vancaster's husband I made the promise of which I have just spoken, about a month and a-half ago.

Question.—Would you believe on oath, a woman who was the avowed friend of a public woman, or of a prostitute, knowing her to be such?

Answer.—If she persisted to continue the friend of such a woman, I would not believe her; but if after having seen her fault she abandoned her, I would believe her.

I cannot say how long I was friendly with Madame Vancaster. I was her friend for about a month. I spent the evening with her sometimes in her room, but I did not sleep with her.

I have not gone to see her since she has left my house. I went to see her towards the end of her residence in the same house with myself, but only to do some errands, and not to pay her a visit. When I first made her acquaintance, she spoke loosely, but I took no notice of it. At length, as she came to know me better, she became more free. For this reason I would not believe her on oath.

I only spoke to Mr. Belle twice.

To Mr. Monk.—I never admitted, in the presence of Mr. Muller, that I had slept with Madame Vancaster.

Re-examined.

By Mr. Belle.—I gave up Madame Vancaster when I observed that she was not a proper woman (*fenime convenable*), and that she did not conduct herself as a woman ought to conduct herself.

The witness here closes her deposition, in which she persists, declaring the same to be true, and hath signed.

MARIE GAGNON,

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

(Attested,)

J. F. DUBREUIL,

Secretary, pro tempore.

PIERRE GAGNON, employed in the manufactories, being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—I am twenty-four years of age.

To Mr. Belle.—I know Madame Vancaster, having seen her at times. I never had occasion to speak to her. I lived in the same house with her, and I so resided all the time she lived in it with her husband. I still live in it. I got married on the 9th of last September. We give a party. Madame Vancaster was present. She danced with other Frenchmen. I noticed that Madame Vancaster danced an indecent and immoral dance. I was of opinion with several others, that it was an immoral dance.

Cross-examined.

By Mr. St. Pierre.—I was not in liquor that day. I did not find the dance in question respectable. I cannot say how many persons took part in the dance. If the same dance had been danced by men it would not have been indecent. There were men and women in this dance.

Question.—Is it not true that the greater indecencies committed upon that occasion, were by you, and that several persons had to leave the room in consequence of these indecencies?

Answer.—No.

The witness here closes his deposition, in which he persists, declaring the same to be true, and hath signed.

PIERRE GAGNON.

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

(Attested,)

J. F. DUBREUIL,

Secretary, pro tempore.

At half-past five o'clock in the afternoon of the said twenty-eighth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, the *enquête* is continued until the following day, twenty-ninth March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner

SATURDAY, twenty-ninth March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

PRESENT :

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, Q. C.,

Commissioner.

PIERRE LESAGE, of the City of Montreal, baker, aged twenty-six years, being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—I am a Frenchman. I arrived in Canada on the first of October last, and at Montreal during the first days of the same month. A number of us arrived together. On my arrival at Montreal, I looked for a room for my wife, myself and one child. I afterwards went to the Emigration Home to be received. I went there afterwards to get my meals. I continued taking my meals only at the Home for three or four days. Mr. Belle was their principal Emigration Agent, and Mr. Muller superintendent.

By Mr. Belle.—I found every thing very good at the Emigration Home, and I was well treated. The food was comfortable and good. Apart from this I was well treated. I was well received by Mr. Belle and Mr. Muller and by all the personnel of the establishment. I observed that Mr. Belle interested himself in the welfare of the emigrants, and he said to those who had no trades that he regretted not being able to get them places. In the meantime he gave them encouragement. I remarked that Mr. Belle treated the emigrants with affability and spoke to them very kindly.

I came on the same ship with Madame Monier, her husband and her child. We made each others acquaintance a few hours after we had left Bordeaux. We did not come direct from Bordeaux to Quebec, we first went from Bordeaux to Liverpool, when we embarked on board one of the steamers of the Allan line. We lived ten days at Liverpool. We took our food at the same table. I observed that Madame Monier's conduct while crossing was extravagant. She made a great deal of noise, and held improper conversation with the men. She used bad words, and I have heard her swear by the name of God.

This woman was an incumbrance to us, and at Liverpool she was the cause of the hotel-keeper looking upon us unfavorably, because she exacted things we could not have any wish for.

I saw Madame Monier the day following our arrival in Montreal, at the Emigration Home. She arrived in Montreal on the Tuesday, and we saw her the following Sunday. We did not arrive in Montreal at the same time as Madame Monier, having been detained at Quebec. On that Sunday she spoke very favorably of Mr. Belle, saying to us, that he was good enough to give her husband employment in his office, so that he might make a little money, as he had none. Later,—after Madame Monier's husband had left Mr. Belle, Madame Monier paid us a visit. In the course of conversation she told us that Mr. Belle was an ungrateful person, that he had done them an injury by dismissing her husband from his service, that Mr. Belle was a scoundrel, that he would repent it, and that she would be revenged of him as long as she lived, that she was sure to get her revenge out of him, whenever she owed ill-will to anybody she always found means to revenge herself. She did not make any complaint against Mr. Belle other than the one I have just stated, I noticed that she was a vindictive and spiteful woman.

Question.—Do you think this woman, imbued with this hate against a person, worthy of belief, if she accused, on oath, the person whom she believed had offended her in any manner?

Answer.—Under such circumstances I would not believe her on oath.

Question.—From what you know of that woman would you believe her on oath under any circumstances?

Answer.—I would not believe her on oath if she bore ill-will to any one, but on the other hand if she wished well to a person, then I might believe her on oath.

From what I know of this woman, I would not believe her on oath, if the oath was against any person to whom she owed ill-will.

The conduct of this woman does not inspire confidence. As for myself she did nothing to me personally. She is a violent woman, I have often heard her say, she didn't care a damn for her husband, that if he did not take her out, she would go out alone.

Cross-examined.

By Mr. Monk.—I never had any quarrel with Madame Monier. I did not notice that she was religious and devout. On the contrary she spoke badly enough about priests. Her husband was a very quiet man. I relate this story for the first time. I did not go any-where to make an affidavit. I have not received any money for coming here nor has any money been promised to me.

I was solicited to come here and give my evidence by a person who asked me if I knew anything against her. This occurred five or six days ago. When I say that this woman's conduct was extravagant, it is because her conduct in the ship was not such as it ought to have been. She shook hands with the sailors, laughed, and amused herself with them and swore by the name of God. I cannot state if these things happened in the presence of her husband. One day, while we were at table, a man from the same place as herself insulted her very grossly, and her husband, who was near her, did not say a word in her defence.

I did not sleep at the Emigration Home, because I had hired a room for myself and my wife, and I preferred sleeping there. I did not go into every room in the Home. I was in the men's dormitory, on that day all the mattresses were piled in a corner. I also saw the quilts in a pile. The quilts and the mattresses appeared to be clean. I did not go to the bath-room.

I read over the placard which is in the house.

During the time I stayed at the Emigration Home, I saw Mr. Belle once every day, at noon. I have no complaint to make against Mr. Muller. To my taste the food was good and well prepared. The annoyance which Madame Monier caused us at the hotel at Liverpool, was about the food. She wanted food special-

ly prepared for herself. I never heard it said that Madame Monier has made a false oath, and I never accused her of having made one. I believe that Mr. Monier is a quiet man to a great degree (*à l'excès*). I never saw any harm in him.

I persist in saying that I would not believe Madame Monier on her oath, and I persist in the deposition I have just made. I also persist in saying that I saw the mattresses and quilts, which were clean, and piled, as I have already stated. The mattresses were good. I believe they were mattresses, or at least I took them for mattresses. I thought the quilts belonged to the establishment.

Mr. St. Pierre.—Mr. St. Pierre states he has no question to put.

And further deponent saith not, and he declares his present deposition to contain the truth, persisting therein, and hath signed.

PIERRE LESAGE.

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

The same day, twenty-ninth March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

MARIE CÉLESTINE DEPAGNE, wife of Pierre Lesage, of Montreal, baker, being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—I am twenty-four years of age. I was of the number of emigrants who arrived here, at Montreal, on the fifth October last. I took food three times, on three different days, at the Emigration Home. We did not sleep there, because we had taken a room upon our arrival at a hotel.

By Mr. Belle.—I found the food given to us at the Emigration Home good and plentiful. Some of it always remained on the table. I even saw emigrants taking it for their collation, and nothing was said to them. Mr. Belle, at one of the meals, asked in my presence if the emigrants were satisfied with the food, and

they all answered affirmatively. I know Madame Monier. I made her acquaintance at Bordeaux, after we had embarked to come to Canada. We went from Bordeaux to Liverpool, where we remained ten days, before taking the steamer to come to Canada. While crossing, Madame Monier's conduct was light. I saw her leaning carelessly on a gentleman from Bordeaux. I also saw her go to make her toilet in the same gentleman's room. I cannot say if the gentleman was then in his room.

On my arrival at the Emigration Home, I saw Madame Monier, who had preceded me a few days. She told me Mr. Belle was a good man, that he had given her husband employment, that he had engaged a coachman, and that in a word he was a father to the emigrants.

Some time afterwards I had another conversation with Madame Monier, after her husband had left Mr. Belle's employ. She said she bore ill-will to Mr. Belle and any person to whom she bore ill-will, it was for life. That her husband had more ability than Mr. Belle. She also said she was in indigent circumstances, having only four dollars left. I do not recollect if she said anything else of Mr. Belle, nor if she made further complaint against Mr. Belle.

From what I can judge of her character, I believe Madame Monier to be a spiteful and vindictive woman. She told me she bore great ill-will against Mr. Belle for having discharged her husband. Since this last conversation I have not seen Madame Monier.

Cross-examined.

By Mr. St. Pierre.—Madame Monier came with her husband.

The eulogy of Mr. Belle made by Madame Monier as above related was in consequence of the situation given to her husband by Mr. Belle. She appeared to be satisfied with the Emigration Home because she wanted me to go there and eat with her. I only dined at the Emigration Home.

And further witness saith not, and she declares and persists in her present deposition, declaring the same to be true, and hath signed.

MARIE CELESTINE DEPAGNE,
wife of P. LESAGE.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

(Attested,)

J. F. DUBREUIL,
Secretary, pro tempore.

The same day, the twenty-ninth March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

ARMAND GRIFFEL, of Montreal, farmer, being duly sworn, doth depose and say :

I am a Frenchman. I am thirty-three years of age. I arrived at Montreal on the 2nd October last, with a number of emigrants. On our arrival we went down to the Emigration Home, St. Antoine street. Mr. Belle was then Emigration Agent. I remained but one night at the Home. I took supper in the evening and went to bed. I was well treated, I was satisfied with what they did for us. We were a large number. Mr. Belle notified us to conduct ourselves properly and not to drink liquor if we went out.

By Mr. A. Belle.—I had nothing to complain of during the time I lived at the Emigration Home. It was neat, clean and good. I came to Canada in the same ship with Mr. and Madame Monier. I left Bordeaux with them on the 6th September last. Madame Monier's conduct during the voyage across was not that of an honest person.

Judging from Madame Monier's conduct, it would be difficult for me to believe her on oath. She was troublesome to all the company and always in a quarrel with everybody. We lived ten days at Liverpool with the Emigration Agent. I do not believe

her to be a woman of good faith. I had to complain myself of her bad faith.

Cross-examined.

By Mr. St. Pierre.—I said that Madame Monier was not a woman of good faith, and of that, I had experience because I loaned her six *sous* at Liverpool and she will not return them to me. I asked for my six *sous* at Liverpool. I asked her for them before everybody; she was vexed and she said she would not give them to me. This conduct on the part of Madame Monier annoyed me. From that date I put her aside, but I have not quarrelled with her. It is because of this act of bad faith on the part of Madame Monier that I said I would have difficulty in believing her on oath, and also because I suspected her of having taken a cup and a saucer from the hotel-keeper at Liverpool. She said he had overcharged her. Her husband was on board the steamer with her but not always in her company. She had also with her a small child of six or seven years of age, who constantly accompanied her, but she never gave her child any attention. Since she refused to pay me the six *sous* of which I have spoken above, I have lost all confidence in her.

Re-examined.

When Madame Monier shewed me the cup and saucer in question, she said Mr. Petit Mangin, (the hotel-keeper,) paid for this. Before this she complained of having been overcharged by the hotel-keeper in question, and said she would make him pay for it. In my opinion we were not overcharged, and Madame Monier not more than us. They charged a little more on the meal to which he had a right, because we asked for something extra.

And the witness here closes her deposition, in which she persists, declaring the same to be true, and hath signed.

ARMAND GRIFFEL.

CHARLES A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

(Attested,)

J. F. DUBREUIL,

Secretary, pro tempore.

It being five o'clock in the afternoon of the said day, twenty-ninth March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, the present enquiry is adjourned until Monday, the thirty-first March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three. at two o'clock in the afternoon.

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

(Attested,)

J. F. DUBREUIL,

Secretary, pro tempore.

At two o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, thirty-first March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

PRESENT :

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, Q. C.,

Commissioner.

HENRI DEPLESCHIN, of the City of Montreal, mechanician, being duly sworn, doth depose and say :—I am a Belgian, I am thirty-eight (38,) years of age. I arrived in Canada about the beginning of the month of July last. I was with a number of other emigrants who came to Montreal. On my arrival I went down to the Emigration Home. Mr. Belle was then Emigration Agent. I found work immediately with Mr. Brush. For the past 15 days I have been working for Mr. Gilbert.

By Mr. A. Belle.—During the time I was at the Emigration Home (one night,) I was well treated. I was well fed, the home was clean. I had a good bed and I have nothing to complain about. I know Madame Vancester since almost 15 days after her arrival at Montreal I had occasion to know her character as well as her reputation. I do not believe she is in the habit of telling the truth. She told me several falsehoods among others the following, one day she said she was not married to Mr. Vancester, the next day she said she was.

The first time I went out with Madame Vancaster and other persons, we drank several bottles of beer together. We afterwards drank some bottles of wine, after having drank the last bottle of wine she introduced me to a house in Montreal before known to me, but where she was well known. I went with her and Pelzer and his wife. We went to this house where we drank the last bottle of wine and then left. In leaving this house, with Madame Vancaster on my arm, we met Mr. Vancaster who was coming to look for us. We were all thoroughly jolly. Mr. Vancaster commenced to reprimand his wife. She answered, saying, if that did not please him we would return to where we came from. I drank more than once upon other occasions with Madame Vancaster.

I have had an opportunity of knowing Madame Vancaster's moral conduct. Her moral conduct is not good. From what I know of Madame Vancaster's character, reputation and moral conduct, I would have no faith in her oath. One reason is, because this woman has the common habit of telling lies.

When this woman told me she was not married, it induced me to go and see her.

I have already given evidence against Madame Vancaster before the Police Committee.

The house of which I have spoken above, and to which Madame Vancaster conducted me, was a hotel. She told me it was a house of *rendez-vous*. It was the first time I drank with her, and the first time I had gone out with her.

I had relations with Madame Vancaster, other than those already mentioned, at which she lied and drank. Madame Vancaster has not her equal. She is a free woman, too, free indeed towards men. She behaved in a free manner towards me. She made advances to me. She invited me to go and see her during the absence of her husband. I did not go there the following day, because in leaving Madame Vancaster I fell and wounded myself. I did not work for four days. The day after that upon which I received the fall, she came to see me in my room.

While she was there Madame Pelzer came in and her presence prevented some thing much worse, which might have occurred.

About five or six weeks ago, three persons came in search of me, one of whom was Mr. Perrot, now present before this enquiry, another Belgian who keeps a tobacco store I believe, and a Mr. Boncorps, here present before me. The Belgian spoke first. They asked me down to take a glass of wine, I thanked them. They next asked me to take a glass of cognac, I again thanked them. They than all three walked into the room I occupied at Mr. Pelzer's. Mr. Pelzer and his wife were present. The Belgian speaking to me said I was a mean spirited fellow for having given evidence against a fellow country woman. He said, if I would contradict it, I would get a hundred dollars. (I had been then before the Police Committee.) I answered saying that I did not come to this country to take a false oath, not for a hundred dollars nor for all Montreal. They then went away.

I understood that the offer they made me was to contradict my statement before the Police Committee, and to induce me not to give any further evidence against Madame Vancaster.

Cross-examined.

By Mr. Monk.—I am a widower. I have four children. I lost my wife in Belgium, before coming here. I left my children in Belgium. I am not a man who drinks much. I take my pleasure from time to time. I am not in the habit of frequenting bad houses. I did not boast before Mr. Perrot or Mr. Boucorps, that I knew all the brothels in Montreal. The first time I went on a frolic with Madame Vancaster, I was gay; I was not drunk. There were four of us, Madame Vancaster, Mr. and Madame Pelzer and myself. We commenced by drinking beer, five or six bottles. Afterwards we drank wine, four or five or six bottles, I cannot remember. When we commenced drinking we were six persons. Between us four we drank half-a-dozen bottles of beer and as many of wine.

I was not drunk when I fell at the foot of the staircase in Madame Vancaster's house, as I stated above. I missed one of the steps.

I arrived at the Emigration Home on a Sunday morning. I took my meals there that day. We had good coffee and bread and butter for breakfast. Mr. Muller was then at the Emigration Home. The mattresses were very clean; the sheets, quilts and pillow-cases were all clean. There was enough and more than enough for all the emigrants. We numbered from ten to fifteen emigrants. Each one slept alone and had his mattress arranged to his liking. I went into the bath-room. There was a basin with clean water in it to wash in, and a roller with a towel on it to dry ourself with. I did not see any vermin in the house.

Madame Vancaster was not joking when she told me that she was not married, and afterwards that she was. I do not remember where the house is, of which I have spoken above. We had nothing to eat on the evening in question. When I say that Madame Vancaster's moral conduct was not good, I so inferred from her deeds and gestures.

Question.—When Madame Vancaster told you she was not married, did you visit her with the view of marrying her?

Answer.—No.

Question.—With what object then did you visit this lady?

Answer.—For the pleasure of going to see her.

The evening I had the frolic with Madame Vancaster as I have already stated she drank glass for glass with me, only I was more sick than she. I am certain that upon the occasion aforesaid Madame Vancaster used the words "*maison de rendez-vous.*"

I did not know Madame Vancaster before my arrival in this country. I arrived here about two months before her. Before the frolic in question, I had met Madame Vancaster several times at Madame Pelzer's, in College street. It is to my personal knowledge that this woman conducted herself as a woman of bad reputation. Indecent actions have taken place between us. These acts might have occurred five or six times in her house, and in her room. She came into my room at Mr. Pelzer's, and I went into hers.

Question.—Do you swear that you have had criminal intercourse with Madame Vancaster?

Answer.—No.

I took part at a dinner last evening at Mr. Pelzer's.

By Mr. St. Pierre.—Why did you leave Mr. Brush's establishment?

Answer.—Because they made fun of me, and also because I was struck by some one. The trouble arose, because my name appeared in the newspapers with that of Madame Vancaster.

Mr. and Madame Pelzer were present when I fell down Madame Vancaster's stairs. When the offer in question of a hundred dollars was made to me, it was in the Flemish language. I believe Mr. Perrot and Mr. Boncorps understood it well. I did not receive any money to come here, nor has any money for that object been promised to me. I would not take a false oath for money. I earn two dollars a day at my trade.

Re-examined.

By Mr. Belle.—When I spoke of a mattress, I did not pay attention if I slept on a mattress, or on a tick, at the Emigration Home. I did not pay attention to the bedding. I got a good bed, and it was clean.

The witness here closes his deposition, persisting therein, declaring the same to be true, and hath signed.

HENRI DEPLESCHIN.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

[Attested,]

J. F. DUBREUIL,

Secretary, pro tempore.

The same day, thirty-first March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

HERMAN JOSEPH PELZER, of Montreal, chemist, being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—I am thirty-three years of age. I am a Belgian. I arrived in Montreal the 29th August last. On my arrival I went down to the Emigration Home, of which Mr. Belle is the agent. My wife and my child were with me. I remained at the establishment 17 or 18 days, Mr. Belle was then agent. I found employment two days after my arrival.

i. j. Mr. Belle.—During my stay at the Emigration Home, I was satisfied with the treatment we had received. The food was good and plentiful. I have no complaint against the bedding. I had a mattress like the others. I have in no way any complaint to make against the Emigration Home.

On leaving the Emigration Home I went to live at No. 31, College street, where I still reside. Madame Vancaster and her husband came to live in the same house with us, about eight days after we had gone into it. I had occasion to know Madame Vancaster's character and reputation during that time. I had an opportunity to judge of her veracity. She is not in the habit of telling the truth, but to tell falsehoods. One day she would say she was married and the next she was a spinster. I know that she told a great many other falsehoods.

I know Madame Vancaster's reputation upon the point of moral conduct.

From what I know of Madame Vancaster's character, as above stated, I would not believe her on oath.

Madame Vancaster is in the habit of drinking. I, myself, drank with her and other persons. The first Sunday we went out together, Depleschin, my wife, my child, myself and Madame Vancaster, (Mr. Vancaster, the husband, was not with us.) We took a walk through the city. We went into a house where they retailed liquor. I do not know where it is, nor do I know who keeps the house. We drank six or seven bottles of beer and as

much wine. One drank as much as the other. Leaving this house, Madame Vancaster made us go into the *Maison Dorée*. We drank another bottle of wine. Madame Vancaster, on entering, went to the kitchen. We then returned to our own house. We met Vancaster, who was coming in an opposite direction. Madame Vancaster was arm in arm with Depleschin. Vancaster asked if it was an hour to be on the streets. She said, if he was not satisfied, she would return to the place she came from. On going into the house, her husband gave her a blow with a stick.

I have seen her drink on several occasions, and I drank with her. I have seen her drink enough to unsettle her. I had occasion to see how she conducted herself towards men. She conducted herself badly, and she used indecent words and indecent expressions. I have often heard her husband reproach her for her light conduct and her too free language.

About five or six weeks ago I noticed a Belgian going into my house. He keeps a tobacco store, but I do not know his name. Depleschin, my wife, and myself were present. The Belgian asked for beer. I went for some. Going out of the door I saw one Perrot, who I know by sight, and another person named Boncorps walking up and down before the door. I saw Boncorps the previous evening looking for Depleschin. They came in and we took a glass together.

The Belgian reproached Mr. Depleschin with being a scoundrel for having given evidence against a country, (*contre un pays*) He then said to Depleschin that if he would withdraw the evidence he had given against Madame Vancaster before the Police Committee he would give him a hundred dollars. I understood that the money was offered with the view of preventing him from appearing here. Perrot and Boncorps were present when the offer was made to Depleschin. My wife was also present, Depleschin refused the offer, saying he would not do such a thing for half of Montreal, that he was acting for justice.

It being five o'clock in the afternoon of the said thirty-first March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, the present investigation is adjourned until Tuesday, the first of April,

one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, at three o'clock in the afternoon, to continue the examination of this witness, and the witness hath signed.

H. J. PELZER.

C. A. LÉBLANC,
Commissioner.

TUESDAY, the first April, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

PRESENT:

CHARLES A. LÉBLANC, *Q. C.*,

Commissioner.

The witness Herman Joseph Pelzer continues his deposition, as follows:

When Deplechin was solicited to accept the sum of \$100, as above stated, he said that he would not withdraw his word for any price. This offer was repeated several times. Mr. Perrot, who was present, then said that it was nothing to take an oath. My wife then said to him "do you not believe there is a God." Perrot answered, saying that there was no God, that he did not believe in a God.

I have at times other than those above mentioned drunk with Madame Vancaester.

Cross-examined.

By Mr. Monk.—I remained as I have said, 17 or 18 days at the Emigration Home. Everything was clean. Each bed had a quilt. The women had sheets. There was but one room to wash in. There was as much soap as we wanted. Sometimes the emigrants put it into their pockets. The towels were clean. I had no quarrel with Madame Vancaester, but I had her put out of my room by my wife. I made her acquaintance at the Emigration Home.

Seeing Madame Vancaster's light behaviour, and that she was in the habit of telling falsehoods, I said, that I would not believe her on oath. I never received any money from Mr. Belle. I received three dollars from the person who brought me to the notary to make an affidavit. I received them after having made the affidavit. It was the third time they had taken me there, and I wished to be paid for my time. The person who brought me to the notary was a person in Mr. Belle's office. I do not know his name, nor do I know the name of the notary before whom I took the oath: the affidavit was already prepared. I received the three dollars in the street returning from the Notary's. That money was not promised to me before going to the notary. I asked the person who conducted me, who was going to pay me for my time. They did not promise me any particular sum. I did not know how much they would give me.

It was on a Sunday that we went out together, Depleschin, Madame Vancaster, my wife and myself. I think it was in the month of September last. We were then good friends. I do not know, even now, in which direction we were conducted on that occasion. We left our home about two o'clock in the afternoon, and returned about eight o'clock in the evening. As I have already said, we drank in the first house, seven bottles of beer and seven of wine. Afterwards, at the second house, we drank one bottle of wine. At the beginning we had two Belgians with us, they drank very little. We drank six bottles of beer, and six of wine, between four of us. Beer does not intoxicate me. My wife only took three or four glasses of beer. I was not drunk. Having been brought up in a *café*. I know how to drink without becoming unsettled. Depleschin, and Madame Vancaster took as many glasses as we did. Madame Vancaster even sang. She is not a wicked woman, but she has a bad manner. I have never heard it said that Madame Vancaster took a false oath.

The Belgian of whom I have spoken above, Mr. Perrot and Mr. Boncorps came to my house, but I cannot say on what day. About seven weeks ago to-day. The Belgian spoke sometimes in the Flemish language and sometimes in the French. The Belgian made the offer of a hundred dollars before me. I did

not see any money. He did not say, by whom he was sent. This investigation had not then commenced, but we knew by the papers that it was going to take place. Depleschin is not a great drinker, but sometimes he is carried away by circumstances.

By Mr. St. Pierre.—I remained for so long a time at the Emigration Home, after having obtained work, because I could not immediately get into the room I had hired, not until it was empty.

I visited the Emigration Home frequently after having left it, to see if any of my countrymen had arrived. Mr. Vancaster is a gentleman and a brave fellow. I have nothing to say against his character. I was on good terms with Madame Vancaster, until the moment she commenced to give Mr. Belle trouble, that is to say, about eight days before.

One day she came into my room, and having approached me, conducted herself improperly, and my wife got vexed, I told my wife to put her out.

The next day she returned alone, and I told her to go out. This happened about a month ago. Since that time I have not spoken to her nor have I seen her.

I do not know personally that Madame Vancaster wished to do Mr. Belle any harm.

At all the frolics (*fêtes*) in question (with the exception of one) my wife was present.

At the time of the hundred dollar affair, it was the Belgian who paid for the beer; it was he who offered the money.

By Mr. Belle.—I swear that I never received any money to give evidence.

The witness here closes his deposition, persisting therein, and declaring the same to contain the truth, and hath signed.

H. J. PELZER.

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

(Attested,)

J. F. DUBREUIL,

Secretary, pro tempore.

The same day, first April, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three

JOSEPH JOLY, of Montreal, carrier, being duly sworn doth depose and say :—I arrived in Montreal with my wife during the first week of October last. On arriving at Montreal I went down to the Emigration Home, where I lived three or four days. I am from the *Département de Lot et Garonne, France*. I found that we were well treated at the Home and well fed. I have no reason to complain either against the Home or its administration. I took my meals only there. I did not sleep there. I came here from Bordeaux in the same ship with Mr. and Madame Monier. I had an opportunity during the voyage of knowing Madame Monier. Her reputation on the ship was very bad. We stopped at the same hotel at Liverpool together, I heard her conversation on the ship which was very light and very licentious.

After leaving Liverpool, I saw a cup in Madame Monier's hands, which she told me she had stolen from the hotel-keeper at Liverpool.

Cross-examined.

By Mr. Monk.—I did not care to sleep at the Emigration Home because I wished to sleep with my wife, and I knew that at the Home we would be separated.

No person asked me to come and give evidence before this enquiry. I received a notice to come here and give evidence.

It is only judging from Madame Monier's light conversations that I would not believe her on oath.

By Mr. St. Pierre.—Madame Monier told us, in showing the cup she had taken from the hotel-keeper at Liverpool, that she took it to revenge herself on the hotel keeper whose bill was too high.

Re-examined.

I have no particular fact to allege as a motive for saying that I would not believe Madame Monier on oath, apart from her light, licentious and equivocal manner, and her conversations of the same tenor.

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The witness here closes his deposition, persisting therein, declaring the same to be true, and hath signed.

JOLY.

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

(Attested,)

J. F. DUBREUIL,

Secretary, pro tempore.

The same day, first April, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

CLARA MARROT, wife of Joseph Joly, (the witness just examined,) being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—I am twenty-five years of age. I arrived at Montreal with my husband in the month of October last. On our arrival we slept at a hotel, and took our food at the Emigration Home. We were very well fed at the Home and very well treated. I had nothing to complain of. Saw Mr. Belle every day when he came to the Emigration Home. I was treated politely by him. He treated everybody in my presence in the same manner. I went once to Mr. Belle's office, St. Jacques street. I was in it alone with him. He behaved himself towards me as an honest man. I went there to obtain information. I came in the same ship as Mr. and Madame Monier. I had an opportunity of knowing Madame Monier on the ship. As her conversation was not respectable, I had no desire to have any connection with her. Her reputation on board the ship was very bad. There were about from 600 to 700 Emigrants on the ship. After we had left Liverpool, I saw in the hands of Madame Monier a porcelain cup which she said she took from the hotel-keeper at Liverpool, and by which she got her revenge. She said she took the cup to be revenged of the hotel-keeper. The cup was not one of great value.

Cross-examined.

By Mr. Monk.—The cup would be worth ten *sous* in France. We were subpoenaed to appear before this enquiry.

While I was at the Emigration Home I lived in Mr. Muller's office, because I knew nobody.

I was well satisfied to leave the Home.

By Mr. St. Pierre—I never went into the upper rooms of the Emigration Home. I never slept there. I took my mid-day meal there. Sometimes I took an evening meal.

Re-examined.

When I say that I was satisfied to leave the Emigration Home, I wished to say, it was because we had found a situation, and not because we had been badly treated.

And the witness here closes her deposition, persisting therein, and declaring the same to be true, and hath signed.

CLARA MARROT.

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

(Attested,)

J. F. DUBREUIL,

Secretary, pro tempore.

The same day, first April, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

MARIE NARCISSE PREVOST, wife of Jacques Emile Papineau, of Montreal, servant, being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—I live in Montreal, at Mr. Papinot's, I am forty-nine years of age.

We arrived in Montreal about five months ago. On our arrival we went to the Emigration Home, where I remained four days. I was fed, and slept there. At the end of the four days I went to live with Mr. Lamothe.

By Mr. A. Belle.—We arrived in Montreal at two o'clock in the morning. My husband remained at the Emigration Home ten or twelve days I believe. I am a French woman, Department *du Pas de Calais*.

I was well treated at the Emigration Home, on our arrival we got coffee and butter. We were satisfied with our reception. The food given to us at the Home was good and well served. Four of us slept in the same room, and we had no complaints to make. While I was there I occasionally gave a hand. The house was clean. There were towels to dry with, and I was offered soap to wash my linen with, if I required it. I saw Mr. Belle every day at the Home. He treated the emigrants politely.

We had every facility to make our toilet.

Mr. Belle to my knowledge took a great deal of trouble to find places for emigrants.

Cross-examined.

By Mr. St. Pierre.—Whenever we failed to find a place (the emigrants,) Mr. Belle said to us "my children have you found places." When he addressed the women he used the words, "my girl," striking them on the shoulder in a friendly manner. I never noticed Mr. Belle using the expressions "thee or thou," (*tutoyait*) to the women, sometimes he used these words to the men.

The bed on which I slept had two quilts belonging to the Emigration Home. It was Madame Barrette and her daughter who offered me the soap and towels to wash with.

The witness here closes her deposition, persisting therein, and declaring the same to be true. And she further states that she cannot sign her name.

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

(Attested,)

J. F. DUBREUIL,

Secretary, pro tempore.

The same day, first April, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

JACQUES EMILE PAPINEAU, husband to the last witness examined, being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—I have been in

Montreal for about five months. I lived twelve days at the Emigration Home. I arrived there at two o'clock in the morning. About twenty of us, emigrants, arrived together. Some person met us at the railway station and conducted us to the Emigration Home, where they gave us coffee and bread and butter.

While I was at the Home, we were well treated as regards the food. We had good beef and good soup and potatoes. We had good bedding. I consider I was well treated in every respect. We could not expect better at an Emigration Home. I saw Mr. Belle every day at his office, and at the Home, he was engaged getting places for emigrants. He was very polite to everybody, and he called us his children. We had no reason to complain of the cleanliness of the Home. We had all we required for washing purposes, towels and soap.

Cross-examined.

By Mr. St. Pierre.—It was in the Emigration Home, about the second of October, I went there about that date. I do not know Mr. Muller. Mr. Muller was not there at that date. I do not know the gentleman. I did not catch any vermin at the Emigration Home.

The witness here closes his deposition, persisting therein, and declaring the same to contain the truth, and hath signed.

PAPINEAU, J. E.

It being six in the afternoon of the said first April, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, the present enquiry is adjourned to Wednesday, the second April, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

(Attested,)

J. F. DUBREUIL,
Secretary, pro tempore.

WEDNESDAY, the second of April, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

PRESENT:

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, Q. C.,

Commissioner.

PIERRE ETIENNE PICAULT, Esq., of the City of Montreal, Physician, being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—I am vice-Consul to France, at Montreal. I am sixty-five years of age.

I know Hans Muller. I knew him last summer at the Emigration Home. I saw him once, and he came once, to my office. Mr. Muller, the last time, during the autumn, came to me with a certificate to the effect that he had perfectly performed his duties at the Emigration Home. He asked me to sign it. After having examined the certificate, I remarked to him that an important signature was wanting that of Mr. Belle, the Emigration Agent, who above all others was best able to say if Hans Muller had really performed his duties or not. Mr. Muller then said to me that he had left the Emigration Home, that he had, had difficulties with Mr. Belle, and that he gave himself very little trouble about him. Having refused to sign the certificate, he folded up his papers in an abrupt manner, and withdrew speaking to himself, but loud enough for me to hear. He said: "Oh Mr. Belle, I will have him dismissed, and I will be revenged of him." These words were said in the passage between my office and the shop. I have not seen Mr. Muller since then.

I know Madame Vancaster. She came to my office about the end of December last. She asked me if an oath taken here, bound the conscience as much as in Europe. I asked her, what object she had in asking this question. She said that Mr. Belle had made an attempt upon her, that she wished to sue him, that she had been offered two hundred dollars to withdraw her complaint, but she would do nothing as she had the advantage over him. I told her she could never make me believe that Mr. Belle had made indecent propositions to her, and I advised her, in her

own interest, not to give herself further trouble in the matter, and to let it drop there. Seeing that I was not disposed to enter into a conversation with her she left me. I have not seen her since.

From the conversation I had with this woman (more particularly the latter part of it.) I thought it was done for extortion.

Question.—Did you say to Madame Vancaster upon that occasion, or upon any other occasion, that Mr. Belle was a man of influence, and that she was only an emigrant, that Mr. Belle would attain an end which she and her husband could not, and that Mr. Belle had money? or did you use words bearing that sense?

Answer.—No. Not believing the story she had related I had no desire go into the details.

I have in my service a clerk, a Belgian. Ernest Gautois of Brussels. I have no other Belgian in my employment. He was in my employ when Madame Vancaster called upon me. He has been in my service for five or six months. He is a young man of good family, a gentleman.

Cross-examined.

By Mr. Monk.—I am quite certain that I heard the words used by Mr. Muller when he was leaving my office. I do not think he left it as politely as he ought to have done, he left it rudely. I was alone in my office, the clerks were in the shop. About a month and a-half or two months ago, perhaps longer, I repeated these words to Mr. Archille Belle.

I only went to the Emigration Home twice or three times. I never heard of any complaint against Mr. Muller. I could not sign the certificate presented to me, because I did not know what it contained. I do not know Mr. Muller enough to speak of his reputation.

By Mr. St. Pierre.—The occasion referred to, was not the first time I had seen Madame Vancaster. I have already been examined in reference to her before the Police Committee. Per-

sonally I know nothing against Madame Vancaster. I attended Madame Vancaster's husband. I went twice to Mr. Vancaster's to attend him. She came herself for the medicine. She appeared twice upon these occasions to act properly with her husband and like a respectable woman.

The witness here closes his deposition, persisting therein, declaring the same to be true, and hath signed.

P. G. PICAULT.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

(Attested,)

J. F. DUBREUIL,

Secretary, pro tempore.

The said second day of April, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

NATHALIE COUSSET, wife of Joseph Pelzer, already heard in this cause, being duly sworn, doth depose and say:

The witness not being able to express herself with sufficient fluency in the French language. Mr. Cyrille Delva is sworn as Flemish interpreter.

I arrived in Canada with my husband and my child on the 19th of August. I am thirty-four years of age. I lived seventeen days at the Emigration Home. I slept there. I had a good bed and was well fed.

By Mr. Belle.—I found the food good, and very suitable. The house was very clean. We slept on mattresses. We had woollen quilts. There was a place set apart to wash comfortably, a large bath. There was only one bath-room. I have no complaint to make against the establishment, and I would like to be there again. On leaving the Home we went to live in College street, No. 31. I know Madame Vancaster. I knew her at the Emigration Home. Madame Vancaster is not a good character.

Myself and my husband were witnesses of her conduct. She came once into my house and conducted herself in the presence of my husband, in an indecent manner. I turned her out that day. Two days afterwards she returned. I put her out again and she mocked me. Her conversations, I heard, were in French.

Madame Vancaster is not in the habit of speaking the truth. She told a great many falsehoods in my presence. One day she would say she was married, and the next day she would say that she was not. She told other falsehoods. I have not seen her, I believe, for a couple of months. I stopped visiting her in consequence of her conduct in the presence of my husband. Madame Vancaster is not a sober woman, she drinks a great deal. I saw her drunk with Depleschin and with my husband.

I know Mr. Hans Muller. He was employed at the Emigration Home during the time I was in it. He is now before this court. I have seen Mr. Muller and Mr. Vancaster together. They came to my house the same day that Mr. Belle was attacked in his office. Madame Vancaster joined them. They subsequently all three went away together. Madame Vancaster said, they were all three going to Mr. Belle's office. They took a cup of coffee in my room.

Madame Vancaster on this occasion said that her husband was going to earn nine dollars a week without doing anything. Madame Vancaster said, she had come from the office of Mr. Bernard. The other two said nothing upon this subject.

I recollect, that about five or six weeks ago, a Belgian who keeps a cigar store, Mr. Perrot and Mr. Boncorps, (who are now before me,) came to my house. Depleschin was also there. The Belgian in question, offered, in the presence of the persons above named, to get Mr. Depleschin a hundred dollars if he would withdraw the deposition he had made in favor of Mr. Belle. Depleschin answered, saying, "No, that he would not take a false oath for all the country." The Belgian in reply, said it was not honorable on the part of a Belgian to defame a compatriot. The Belgian spoke in Flemish and in French. Mr. Perrot: It is

nothing to take an oath. I said that to take an oath was a great deal in the sight of God. Mr. Perrot then said, there was no God.

It is to my knowledge that Madame Vaneaster came to my home to see Depleschin when he was ill.

Deplesechin was lying on his bed. Madame Vaneaster went in, and shut the door. After some time I went into the room, and I saw Madame Vaneaster lying over Deplesechin. I told Madame Vaneaster to go away. They were together alone, (she and Deplesechin,) about a quarter of an hour.

Cross-examined.

By Mr. Monk.—I was not, nor am I now jealous of Madame Vaneaster. I was good friends with her, until I witnessed her conduct in the presence of my husband, as I have above explained. Since then I have not liked her because she was ready to bring trouble into my household. At the time we had the *fête* together I drank with my child three glasses of beer. The child drank nearly a glass during the course of that afternoon. I am not in the habit of drinking. I have not taken any liquor to-day.

When Madame Vaneaster came to see Deplesechin I left them at once together. I went to my kitchen.

By Mr St. Pierre.

Question.—Did you upon any occasion see Mr. Belle kiss Madame Vaneaster?

Answer.—No, never.

I knew Madame Barrette, we visit each other occasionally, once or twice a week.

I made a deposition before the Police Committee on the Vaneaster affair.

I also made an affidavit, to which I took oath, before a person whom I do not know.

Madame Barrette accompanied me. The affidavit was already prepared. It was read to me before I swore to it.

I have not received any money for what I have done, nor have I been promised any. I did not solicit any one to appear as a witness for Mr. Belle.

Re-examined.

By Mr. Belle.—The affidavit of which I have just spoken, was drafted upon the instructions I had previously given.

The witness here closes her deposition, persisting therein, declaring the same to be true, and that she cannot sign her name.

The above evidence was given partly in French, but the greater part of it in the Flemish language.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

(Attested,)

J. F. DUBREUIL,

Secretary, pro tempore.

The same day, second April, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

BERNARD THÉOPHILE CLÉMENT BORDERIE, of Montreal, Physician, being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—I am a Frenchman. I am forty-three years of age. I arrived in Montreal on the eighth of October last. In France I was health officer, I have a diploma. On my arrival at Montreal, I went down to the Emigration Home.

By Mr. A. Belle.—I have been at the Emigration Home since the eighth of October last.

The 15th of October last, Mr. Belle asked me to go and work in his office, St. Jacques street, I went as requested, and I am still there. Towards the 20th of the same month, Mr. Belle told me that Mr. Muller, (who was then superintendent of the Emigration Home,) complained of the beds being dirty, and that there was

vermin in them. Mr. Belle told me to go with him to the Emigration Home. We went together. We examined the beds in the men's dormitory one after the other. The Home was then full of emigrants. We did not find anything. Mr. Belle brought a microscope with him.

From that time Mr. Belle instructed me to clean the dormitories every morning. I acted in obedience to his instructions since then, and every morning at nine o'clock all is ready.

Respecting the uncleanness, we established that Mr. Muller made a false report. Mr. Muller left the establishment a few days after my visit with Mr. Belle to the Home.

I had an opportunity of visiting the house in all its apartments.

The food during Mr. Muller's time was, what it always has been, good.

The food was composed of tea or coffee with bread and butter in the morning. For dinner we had broth, beef, potatoes, bread and soup. The food was good and healthy, and had a good taste. It was sufficient in quantity, and some always remained over. Since my arrival, I have continuously boarded at the Emigration Home, and I had no reason to complain of the food.

I was present when Mr. Muller left. The evening Mr. Muller and his wife left the Emigration Home, he said: "I am leaving but others will also leave." I thought his having to leave annoyed him, and from the tone in which he expressed himself, he had a spite against somebody.

On my arrival at the Emigration Home I found the house clean and well kept, and that the emigrants were decently cared for. We were in the habit of washing the stairs and passages twice a week. I overlooked that myself.

Cross-examined.

By Mr. Monk.—I have been admitted to the practice of medicine and practice it.

No special cooking was done for me. I take my meals at the same time as the emigrants, with the superintendent, who replaced Mr. Muller. We examined to see if there was any vermin, but we did not find any. If there had been any vermin I would have caught some, having lived six months in the house. I sleep every night in the establishment. During the day I am employed by Mr. Belle as well in his office as at the Emigration Home.

By Mr. St. Pierre.—I have not been instructed by Mr. Belle to look after witnesses. Whenever he told me to look after a witness I did so, and always after office hours. I met Mr. Muller one evening at Laurent's in Craig street. He entered like a madman. He sat down and commenced talking to me. He said I was the physician to the Emigration Home, and that I had felt Madame Barrette's pulse. I understood from his conversation that he wished to make fun of me. I allowed him to speak for some time when I told him to leave me alone.

I brought four witnesses to Mr. Valois' to swear to affidavits.

I arrived at the Emigration Home on the 8th October, and Mr. Muller left it, I believe, about the 22nd October.

Re-examined.

When Mr. Muller attacked me at Madame Laurent's, he was in a state of partial intoxication.

The enquiry is continued until Thursday, the 3rd April, 1873.

The witness here closes his deposition, persisting therein, and declaring the same to be true, and hath signed.

CLEMENT DE. BORDERIE

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

[Attested,]

J. F. DUBREUIL,

Secretary, pro tempore.

THURSDAY, the third April, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

PRESENT :

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, Q. C.,

Commissioner.

JOSEPH ISAÏE RIVIÈRE, of the City of Montreal, hotel-keeper, being duly sworn, doth depose and say :—I am 44 years of age.

To Mr. A. Belle.—I have known Mr. Hans Muller for about eleven or twelve years. I have had an opportunity of judging of his general character. Three or four years ago he boarded at my house with his wife. He did not pay me for his board, and I have still a judgment against him. He used every possible means to avoid paying me. He left some effects at my house and I was obliged to seize them, to obtain payment of a part of what he owed me. Since then he has not visited my house.

During the time he lived at my house and until the moment I asked from him what he owed me, everything went well enough. He was often absent, as he was a commission merchant. Mr. Muller promised to pay me, but instead of paying me he went to Upper Canada. He never kept his word with me. He always made me promises but never kept his promises.

Question.—If Mr. Hans Muller had, in any affair whatever, no matter how small an interest, would you believe him on oath, from what you know of his character and his transactions ?

Answer.—I would have no confidence in this man, in any transaction I might have with him. As the thing is very serious, I cannot say if I would believe him or not on oath in an affair I had no knowledge of. That would depend upon circumstances. In certain cases I would not believe him, and in others I might believe him.

Question.—In a case within your knowledge, where Mr. Muller had a spite, or wished to exercise his vengeance against anybody, from your knowledge of his character, would you believe him on his oath, if he swore against that person ?

Answer.—I would not believe either he, or any other person, when I knew it was done through spite.

From my knowledge of Mr. Muller, I do not believe him to be an honest man.

Cross-examined.

Mr. Muller and his wife boarded at my house nearly three months. For a certain time I was well enough paid. He paid me with money. I do not remember if at the beginning he paid me with drafts (*traites*.) I sued him, I believe, for fifteen pounds, and I obtained judgment against him. I did not detain his effects. He had some beds and some linen at my house. I do not recollect if he brought an action *en revendication* for his effects. I do not remember that he obtained a judgment against me. He came to my house with the Police. In a cause, in which I believed, as I have above stated, that Mr. Muller had a spite against any one, I would not believe him on his oath, because he is not a trustworthy man. But in a case in which he was not interested, I would believe him without difficulty.

I have reasons, other than his default to pay what he owes me, for not believing him on oath, his failure to faithfully pay me, is one of my principal reasons for not believing him on oath.

By Mr. St. Pierre.—I have no ill-will or spite against Mr. Muller. I offered to allow him to come for his books that he left at my house.

I did not say to any one, that I would do everything in my power to ruin Mr. Muller, he is already ruined. I offered to compound with him, by taking thirty dollars for sixty dollars that he owed me. He offered me his note but his note was not worth anything.

The witness here closes his deposition, declaring the same to contain the truth, persisting therein, and hath signed.

J. ISAIÉ RIVIÈRE,

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

[Attested,]

J. F. DUBREUIL,

Secretary, pro tempore.

The same day, third April, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

AMABLE PAYETTE, of the City of Montreal, contractor, being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—I am thirty-nine years of age

By Mr. A. Belle.—I know Mr. Hans Muller, I knew him when he boarded with Mr. Rivière, the last witness. I lived next door to Mr. Rivière. Before this date I had occasion to know Mr. Muller's character. The last time he lived with Mr. Rivière there was a difficulty between them about the payment of his board. Mr. Muller, to my personal knowledge, frequently promised to pay his board, but did not do so.

From what I have heard said to him, Mr. Muller is not a straightforward man. I have not had any conversation with him since he left Mr. Rivière's.

From what I know of that man I do not believe him to be an honest man.

Question.—In a case, in which you knew Mr. Muller had any interest whatever in a business matter, from what you know of his character and his transactions, would you believe him on oath?

Answer.—No, I would not believe him.

Question.—If you knew Mr. Muller to owe revenge to any person, from the knowledge you have of his character would you believe him on oath, if he gave evidence against the person to whom he owed the grudge?

Answer.—No.

Cross-examined.

I spoke to Mr. Muller twice, and I have heard him speak with Rivière about four times. My knowledge of Mr. Muller is not greater than that. Upon that knowledge I take upon myself to swear that I would not believe him on his oath. I never knew of any other of Mr. Muller's transactions excepting that with Mr. Rivière, and his default to keep his promises, and his frauds, were

sufficient for me not to believe him on oath. I understand by fraud a man who promises to pay, but does not pay, and who goes to Upper Canada without paying his debts. Mr. Muller did not to my knowledge commit any other fraud than that of which I have spoken.

I know that Mr. Muller did not pay his debts, because Mr. Rivière, my brother-in-law, told me so, and I also know, because I was there every day. I, myself, heard Muller's promises to Rivière.

During the time Mr. Muller boarded at Rivière's, he was often absent, because he was a Commission Merchant. The last time he was about a month absent.

By Mr. St. Pierre.—Mr. Muller was not always absent. I have owed more than Mr. Muller did to Rivière, and I have paid it. I could not always keep my promises to my creditors at the time fixed, but I paid.

During the time Mr. Muller boarded with Mr. Rivière he always behaved like a gentleman, without causing any disturbance.

I never spoke of this matter before to-day. I received a subpoena, and that is my reason for being here. I never had any quarrel with Mr. Muller.

The witness here closes his deposition, persisting therein, and declaring the same to be true, and had signed.

AMABLE PAYETTE.

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner

(Attested,)

J. F. DUBREUIL,

Secretary, pro tempore.

The same day, third of April, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

FRANÇOIS MAXIMILIEN VINCENT LAFON, of the City of Montreal, safety agent, (*agent de sûreté*), sergeant of Police, being duly sworn, doth depose and say :—I am thirty-two years of age.

By Mr. A. Belle.—I went with Mr. Vancaster to Mr. Belle's office about the twentieth or twenty-first, or the twenty-second of January last. It was I who brought Vancaster there. Before going to Mr. Belle's office, I had received instructions from my superior (the Chief of Police) to call upon Mr. Belle, who required my services, and who complained that a conspiracy was following him, to ruin his reputation, and to get money out of him. Upon this, I went to Mr. Belle's office. Mr. Belle repeated to me nearly the same thing as I have just mentioned. He also said he wished to employ me to discover the persons engaged in this conspiracy. He gave me several names to start with, but could not give me their address. Amongst these names, he gave me that of Joseph Vancaster, and told me he was employed as a Policeman in our corps. I commenced the affair by going for Vancaster. I found him, and asked him to come with me in a sleigh to Mr. Belle. That is how I came to be at Mr. Belle's with Vancaster.

Mr. Belle, on seeing Vancaster, and after we were seated, reproached Vancaster for the complaints he was making to the Government against Mr. Belle. He said to him: "Did I not always treat you well, when you lived at the Emigration Home?" "What wrong have you to reproach me with;" or words to that effect. Vancaster promptly answered Mr. Belle, saying he had nothing against Mr. Belle, that it was his wife. Mr. Belle answered him, saying: "How is it, that your wife can bring a complaint against me now, after having remained for so long a time without complaining." Vancaster then said that he had not a wife like other people, she did what she liked, and he could not restrain her. Mr. Belle asked Mr. Vancaster why he allowed his wife to lodge a complaint against him, while he, Vancaster, had no complaint to make. Mr. Vancaster said that they were pressed and pushed to make it. Mr. Belle then wished to know by

whom Madame Vancaster was pressed to make this complaint. Mr. Vancaster said it was Mr. Muller, and others, whose names he did not like to mention.

Mr. Belle then said, as you say you have nothing against me and that you were induced by Muller to make the complaint you have made, will you withdraw this complaint you have made, to the Government, and sign a writing to that effect. Vancaster said he would consent, but on condition his wife would also sign the retraction, which had been prepared in the form of an affidavit by Mr. Belle or his clerk. We then looked for the name of a public officer before whom the affidavit could be made by Vancaster and his wife, and I selected the name of Mr. Morissette, being the nearest. Mr. Morissette lived in St. Vincent street. We went to Vancaster's private residence, Mr. Morissette, Vancaster and myself. We found Madame Vancaster. On the way I explained to Mr. Morissette the object for which he was with us.

On our arrival we went in and Madame Vancaster offered us chairs and afterwards something to drink. She touched glasses and drank with us. I then made known to Madame Vancaster the object of our visit. After having read the affidavit to her, she refused to sign it. I observed to her that, perhaps, it would be better for her sign the affidavit, seeing that her husband was satisfied. Her husband made the same observation. To the last remarks she said, "you, (her husband,) can sign if you like, but for me, I have given my word and I will not withdraw it; you are a coward if you sign. I will leave you. I will keep my word to those to whom I gave it. I pressed her a little more strongly, explaining to her that she exposed herself by allowing so long a delay to take place before making her complaint, that in fact it had happened three or four months before.

I did not then make her any promise of money or recompense of any kind if she would withdraw her complaint. Mr. Morissette then rose and said that he had no time to lose. Madame Vancaster refused to do that which we had asked her. I returned alone to Madame Vancaster, upon the invitation of her husband, who asked me to go back to his wife, and asked her to sign the

affidavit. She promised me that at three o'clock she would go to Mr. Belle's to tell him the truth, and afterwards she would make arrangements if it were possible. She accompanied me as far as the bottom of the stairs, and she said, in the presence of her husband and Mr. Morissette, that she would positively be at Mr. Belle's at three o'clock that afternoon as she had promised me. I did not put my hand on her stomach. We all shook hands in parting in hope that we would all meet together at Mr. Belle's at three o'clock.

Punctually at three o'clock I was at Mr. Belle's office. Mr. and Madame Vancaster arrived about four o'clock. They went to Mr. Belle's chief office, when he asked Madame Vancaster what she had to reproach him with. She was smiling and did not seem to be indignant. Mr. Belle asked her, if he had not always treated her well, and if he did not send for the doctor for her. She said "yes," but the trip to Varennes. Upon these words a knock came to the door, and Mr. Létourneau, Mr. Belle's clerk, came in and said that some person wished to see Mr. Belle in the next room. Mr. Belle withdrew, excusing himself. About five or six minutes after Mr. Belle had gone out I heard a stamping of feet. Madame Vancaster said, "they are fighting." I went out and opened the door of the adjoining room, when I found myself in the presence of Mr. Belle who was struggling with another person. I arrested him upon the order of Mr. Belle. This person asked me who I was. I gave him my name, and shewed him my badge of office. This person said he recognized me, that I had offered Madame Vancaster two hundred dollars to commit perjury. I then went into the next room for Madame Vancaster, and I asked her if I had offered her any money. She answered in the presence of this person that it was not I, who had offered her the money. The person in question then withdrew his statement. I told Madame Vancaster to go away. Since then I have not had any conversation with this lady.

Question.—Did you, the first time you brought Vancaster to Mr. Belle, read to him, at Mr. Belle's request, an affidavit, the purport of which, was that Madame Parotte was a woman of

light conduct, and that the deponent could have had criminal intercourse with that woman?

Answer.—No. Nothing was said about Madame Parotte. At that time I did not know the name.

Question.—Did Mr. Belle never say in your presence, that though he had nothing to say against Madame Vancaster, he would nevertheless find means to prove something by somebody, or did he use words with that meaning?

Answer.—Not in my presence.

It being five o'clock in the afternoon of the said third April, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, the present deposition is continued until Friday, the fourth April, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, at two o'clock, P.M.

And the witness hath signed.

F. M. VINCENT LAFON.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

[Attested,]

J. F. DUBREUIL,
Secretary, pro tempore.

FRIDAY, the fourth of April, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

PRESENT:

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, Q. C.,

Commissioner.

The deposition of the witness François Maximilien Vincent Lafon is continued, as follows:

By Mr. Doherty.

Question.—Were you present at the investigation held by the Police Committee of this city early last winter, and was Mrs.

Vancaster examined as a witness under oath before that Committee with reference to the conduct of Mr. Penton, Chief of Police of this City ?

Objected to by Mr. Monk as illegal and irrelevant. objection reserved.

Answer.—I was present when Mrs. Vancaster gave her deposition under oath before the Police Committee.

Question.—Were you personally conversant with the facts of the matter in which she so gave her evidence under oath ?

Answer.—I was.

Question.—Did Mrs. Vancaster upon that occasion being so examined under oath swear to, and declare to any fact which you then knew, and still know to be, and to have been false ?

Answer.—I heard her swear before the said Police Committee two things which I knew to be false.

Question.—From what you know of Mrs. Vancaster's character and of her having sworn as you have just above stated, would you believe her under oath ?

Answer.—I am not intimate with the character of Mrs. Vancaster, but I know that she swore to what was false, as I have above stated in two instances.

I never knew Mr. Vancaster until the day I have mentioned in my examination in chief, and I did not know before that day that he was in the Police Force. Vancaster told me that he had no objection to sign if his wife signed, and that he would do all he could to make her sign. I brought Mr. Vancaster to Mr. Belle's office because I thought he did not understand the nature of the complaint which had been made. After explanations and reproaches from Mr. Belle, Vancaster said he was willing to withdraw his complaint.

Cross-examined.

By Mr. Monk.—At the time that I went to the office of Mr. Belle, in obedience to the instructions of the Chief of Police, I

firmly believed that a conspiracy had been formed against Mr. Belle. I have had no reasons since to change my mind. The Chief of Police merely directed me to go to Mr. Belle's office.

Question.—Supposing the Chief of Police had said nothing to you previously about this alleged conspiracy what do you mean by stating in your examination in chief "Mr. Belle then repeated to me nearly the same things I have just mentioned"?

Answer.—I understand by this that the Chief of Police had already instructed me that Mr. Belle had informed him that there was a conspiracy afloat against Mr. Belle, and that the Chief told me to go and see Mr. Belle to make enquiries on the matter. The first thing Mr. Belle told me on my arrival in his office, was that there was an attempt made to levy black mail upon him; that he had received a communication from a friend who was putting him on his guard against a conspiracy.

Question.—Did he give you the names of the persons he thought to be in that company?

Answer.—He gave me the names on which he thought I could work the case of Vancaster and another which I cannot recollect. He also told me that he thought Muller was at the bottom of all that. I cannot at this time produce the other names Mr. Belle gave me, but I believe they may be found in my deposition before the Police Committee. There were four more names mentioned by Mr. Belle at the time. I have really forgotten those names at present. My belief is, to the best of my knowledge, that I went to Mr. Belle's office on the 21st or 22nd January last. I am not precise as to the date. I was not then aware that a charge had been made before the Government against Mr. Belle.

Mr. Belle's precise instructions on that occasion were the following, to the best of my recollection. He first made me acquainted with a certain charge made against him by a woman whom he, at the time, thought to be an instrument in the hands of Muller. That woman was Mrs. Vancaster. He then told me that he would give me some names and he did give me them, but I cannot now recollect them. They are the names of the same persons which I

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have above stated I had forgotten. He also at the same time told me that if I could find out these parties, I would get plenty proof of what he had stated to me. There were no persons present at the time except Mr. Belle and myself, and the clerk, Mr. Létourneau, who was coming in and out. I then set to work upon the instructions given to me by Mr. Belle.

While acting upon the instructions of Mr. Belle I also exercised my own discretion in the matter. My first step was to proceed in search of Mr. Vancaster. I found him, and then merely asked him to come with me to Mr. Belle's. We took a sleigh. I did not during our trip from where I took him to Mr. Belle's office say a word to him about Mr. Belle's affairs. I swear that all the evidence given by me, is, to the best of my recollection, a statement of what really took place. I did not tell Vancaster that he must retract all he had said against Mr. Belle. I never charged him with having ever said anything against Mr. Belle, but I only charged his wife with having done so. The inducement I held out to Vancaster was about of the following nature, that being newly arrived in this country he had to beware of advices given by the first person he knew, that if he wanted to get along well in this country I would advise him to make a retraction and to withdraw his complaint if he had been pushed and pressed to make it; that it was extraordinary for me, and that I could not believe that a Frenchman could wait three months to vindicate his wife's honour, that it was better to hush the matter rather than to let the public know of such a charge, after a delay of three months. All this took place in Mr. Belle's office.

Mr. Belle had told me, when I went to him, that the complaint had been lodged three months after the facts alleged to have taken place in said complaint. I do not know personally what those facts are. I did not see the complaint. Mr. Belle told me, at the time he gave me his instructions, that a complaint had been lodged against him by a woman named Vancaster; that she had been insulted by Mr. Belle. He also told me that he himself had asked for an enquiry in the matter on the part of the Government. All this took place on my first visit with Vancaster to Mr. Belle.

The retraction, in the form of an affidavit alluded to in my present deposition, had not then been prepared. It was prepared after Vancaster had said that he was willing to sign it, and read by me to Vancaster. The affidavit was prepared by Mr. Belle's clerk, under Mr. Belle's direction and in our presence.

The name of Commissioner Morissette was selected by accident from the directory, said name not having been mentioned before. I held out no inducement whatever to Mrs. Vancaster, nor did I threaten her, nor was any money offered her to my knowledge. In the exercise of what I thought my duty, I was polite towards Mrs. Vancaster, and she reciprocated the politeness.

Question.—What did you understand by those words, *mais le voyage de Varennes?*

Answer.—I understood that I was to hear something new, but the interruption which then occurred, as I have already stated, stopped any more explanation.

There was no other subject discussed, but the charges alleged in the complaint against Mr. Belle. All I said to Vancaster was, that we both being police officers, he would please much if he signed that retraction, that it would be finishing my work. I heard Mrs. Vancaster swear before the Police Committee two falsehoods. The first was that she never used intoxicating liquors, and that she had not taken any liquor with us when we went to the house, whereas I swear positively that she touched cans (*trinquet*) with us, and drank with us the liquor she had poured in her glass out of a gin bottle and which was strong liquor.

The second falsehood is the following: She swore before the Police Committee that I had been polite to her, and she swore before this commission that I had taken liberties with her. Another falsehood is, that she swore I had offered her two hundred dollars to withdraw her charge against Mr. Belle, whereas I never offered her a cent. I saw Mrs. Vancaster on several occasions, but I never spoke to her after the one above referred to. I do not say that I would not believe Mrs. Vancaster under oath. I only say that I heard her utter falsehoods under oath, as above stated by me.

Re-examined.

By Mr. Belle.—I never said to Madame Vancester that she would have to be on her guard with Dr. Picault, as he was in Mr Belle's interest, and I never used words bearing the same sense.

I wish to add to my deposition, without having been questioned upon it, that I had occasionally an opportunity of visiting the Emigration Home while Mr. Muller was superintendent. One day, being in want of a servant, I went there to look for one. Mr. Muller informed me that a French lady had her watch stolen. I found her watch after a search.

I had occasion to visit the Emigration Home. I inspected three or four apartments. I observed those who were in it, to have a joyous and satisfied appearance, while there were Canadians begging their bread in the streets, and without fuel to warm them. The emigrants had a good appearance. What I saw of the Home was good, and Mr. Muller appeared satisfied, saying at the same time that he had plenty to do.

The cross interrogations to be submitted to the witness by Mr. St. Pierre are deferred for a few moments.

F. M. V. LAFON,
Detective.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

(Attested,)

J. F. DUBREUIL,
Secretary, pro tempore.

The witness Lafon is cross-examined by Mr. St. Pierre, as follows:

Question.—Did you not yourself actually submit to an enquiry in which certain facts concerning Mr. Belle's relations with Madame Vancester played a part?

Answer.—Yes. Before the Police Committee, but not upon the same subject, inasmuch as the Police Committee enquired into my conduct and not that of Mr. Belle.

The witness here closes his deposition, persisting therein, and declaring the same to contain the truth, and hath signed.

F. M. VINCENT LAFON,
Detective.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

[Attested,]

J. F. DUBREUIL,
Secretary, pro tempore.

The same day, fourth April, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

ALEXANDRE DERZE, of St. Thomas de Montmagny, farmer, being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—I am fifty years of age. I arrived in Canada during the first days of the month of August.

By Mr. Belle.—Upon my arrival at Montreal, I went to the Emigration Home with my family, composed of five persons, besides my wife and myself. I remained there three weeks, I believe. During the time we lived at the Emigration Home, I never had any cause of complaint against the management of the Emigration Home or against Mr. Belle. On the contrary, we were well treated by Mr. Belle, well fed, and had good sleeping accommodation. I came to this country with the best recommendations and with pecuniary means. I came from Belgium.

If I remained in this country it is due to the efforts of Mr. Belle to keep me, and to get me a good place. I first lived for two months at *Sault au Récollet* with Mr. Danglais. Mr. Belle came to see me several times, to see how myself and my family were getting on.

He attended to our wants like a good father. It is thanks to the efforts of Mr. Belle, that I succeeded in getting the place I

now have, with the Hon. Mr. Beaubien, at Montmagny, where I can exercise my capabilities, and where I am respected. I am well satisfied with my position and that of my family.

During my stay at the Emigration Home, Mr. Belle treated other Emigrants, like us, with politeness. My children having fallen ill, he sent for a doctor, by whom they were treated until they were perfectly cured.

I never saw any vermin. If there had been any, I certainly would not have remained at the Home. A great number of emigrants arrived at the Home during the time we lived in it.

I say that the emigrants at the Emigration Home were well treated, and that they appeared satisfied. Amongst so great a number there are some who are exacting, and they are generally those who had nothing at home. The food at the Emigration Home was plentiful and healthy. Some always remained on the table. People of middling means who came here, (that is to say nearly all,) and even the farmers, did not eat as much, nor as good food at their own homes, as that given to them at the Emigration Home.

Cross-examined.

By Mr. Monk.—I had no more privileges than others at the Emigration Home, no exceptions were made with us. I received money like others from Mr. Belle to go to different localities to look for a place. I went to Terrebonne to look for a place and afterwards to Sault-au-Récollet. I know my business. I have been a farmer for 35 years. I cultivated the best farms in my country. Having arrived late in Canada, I have not had an opportunity to shew my capabilities. I made the acquaintance of one Pelzer yesterday, I invited him to come and take a glass with me. I remained three weeks without employment. As soon as I found a suitable place I took it. If I had not found a suitable place, I would have returned to Europe.

I come from Montmagny, where I now reside.

By Mr. St. Pierre.—I was a farmer in Belgium.

The witness here closes his deposition, persisting therein, and declaring the same to be true, and hath signed.

A. DEREZE.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

(Attested,)

J. F. DUBREUIL,
Secretary, pro tempore.

SATURDAY, fifth of April, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

PRESENT:

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, Q. C.,

Commissioner.

RICHARD HUTTON, of Montreal, book-keeper, being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—I am fifty-three years of age.

Examined by Mr. Doherty.

I know Mr. Hans Muller, a witness already examined in this case. I see him here present. I first met him in the year 1862, in this city. I was in business, at the time, in this city. I asked Mr. Muller, thinking him a good business man, to take him in with me. I was then in the wine and spirit business. I furnished the capital, upon the supposition that he was a good business man. My business extended as far as Ottawa. I was, at the time, furnishing certain persons in Ottawa, and Mr. Muller attended the Ottawa business. As to the goods disposed of at Ottawa, I can say nothing of their proceeds, as Mr. Muller never accounted to me for them. I asked him several times to give me some account of such proceeds, and he told me that he had taken some notes for the goods, and that the rest he could not collect. He disposed of the whole matter without giving me any satisfaction whatever.

I afterwards had occasion to leave Montreal and to visit England, and I left Mr. Muller in charge of the business at Montreal. When I left, the business was going on well, as usual. I was absent about six weeks, or two months. When I came back, I found my store closed up, and the stock disposed of. Mr. Muller had the books and kept them, and I never had any statement from him. I never could get any, although I asked for it several times, nor would he ever give me up the books. I may say I lost everything in my business, by the way in which Mr. Muller acted. Indeed, I might say, in business he cleaned me out.

I was in business, I think, about two years, with Mr. Muller.

By the manner in which Mr. Muller acted towards me, in our said business, I mean to say that I consider I was defrauded by him.

When I left to go to England, as aforesaid, I think I had about three thousand dollars worth of stock, which I left in Mr. Muller's hands.

Question.—If you knew Mr. Muller to be at enmity with any person, and prosecuting proceedings against such person, and he were examined as a witness against that person, would you believe him on oath?

Objected to by Mr. Monk, as being vague, hypothetical and incomprehensible.

Objection reserved.

Answer.—Having lost all confidence in Mr. Muller, I would not believe him under the above circumstances.

From what I know of Muller, I would not believe him under oath.

Since I have returned from England, I have had occasion to meet Muller. I had business transactions with him since that time. I have received from him, small sums of money and groceries for my family.

Cross-examined.

By Mr. Monk.—I swear that our business transactions were not brought to an end through my being arrested for forgery, at Port Hope. I was arrested at Port Hope, but not for forgery. Mr. Kirkhoffer, Barrister, of Port Hope, was employed against me, as Counsel. I was arrested during the time I was in business with Muller. I was arrested for having misappropriated funds paid to our firm, although I was innocent of the thing, my partner having appropriated the money to his own use. I was brought before the Assizes, and I was found innocent of the crime, the party who had made the complaint against me not appearing. I was arrested in Montreal and brought to Port Hope, by the High Constable, Mr. Bissomette.

I repeat that I was innocent, and that my partner was alone to blame; for, although I knew that he had received the money, I was not aware that he had misappropriated it, until a week after, when I told Mr. Grant of it, myself.

The business of "Harvey & Hutton," carried on by me at Port Hope, had nothing to do with my business with Muller. When the bailiff came to arrest me, I very foolishly kept out of the way, for some time, and then I went to England to try and realize capital to come back to Canada. I was arrested two or three months after my return from England.

The business entered into, between Muller and myself, was not a large business. We bought whiskey in large quantities. We sold it principally as we got it. We converted it sometimes as all liquor dealers do.

I had over three hundred pounds when I took Muller in with me. We made profits, but I cannot say how much. Of course, in addition to the three hundred pounds, we had a large amount of credit. My family and that of Muller had to be supported out of our business. Muller assisted me, but only to a trifling extent, after we had become bankrupts. I might have got from him four or five dollars a week. When I was in partnership with Muller my annual expenses were not two hundred and fifty

pounds a year, although I paid sixty pounds a year for the rent of my house on St. Charles-Baromée street.

I am not aware that the goods of the firm of "Hutton & Muller," were sold by the Sheriff, at the suit of the creditors. There was, I believe, a public sale of what stock there was left in the business.

There were no difficulties when I was arrested, and I am not aware that there were any when I went away. I therefore cannot account for the fact that within six weeks our stock could have been seized and sold by the sheriff. I do not think that my flying from arrest was the cause of our business being ruined.

I do not believe that the commercial agency reported our difficulties, to our creditors, and caused our arrest.

I cannot say that Mr. Muller would make a false oath. I never knew him to make a false oath.

If Mr. Muller were examined in my presence at this moment, I cannot say that I would believe him under oath. I would not believe him under oath.

Question.—Have you stated all the reasons that induced you to say that you would not believe Muller, under oath?

Answer.—Yes, I have, and I know nothing more about his character, but what I have above stated.

And the witness doth herewith close his deposition, to which he adheres, and which he declares true, and he hath signed.

RICHARD HUTTON.

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

[Attested,]

J. F. DUBREUIL,

Secretary, pro tempore.

And it being near four o'clock in the afternoon of the said day, fifth of April, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three,

the present *enquête* is adjourned to Monday, the seventh of April one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

MONDAY, seventh of April, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

PRESENT :

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, Q. C.,

Commissioner.

JOSEPH ARISTIDE ACHILLE BELLE, Esq., Advocate, aged thirty-six years, after having been sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, doth depose and say :—I am an Advocate of the City of Montreal.

I know the Immigration Home, in St. Antoine street, in this city.

I had charge of the whole Immigration Agency for the Province of Quebec, at Montreal, between the 6th and 22nd of August last; during the Mr. C. E. Belle's *congé d'absence* with the consent of the department; he delegated me as agent as aforesaid with the consent of the department. A few days after I took charge of the Home, my uncle, Mr. C. E. Belle, took me to the house to show me what I would have to do, and to notify the parties at the Home that I would be left in charge of the Home, and that they would have to look to me for orders during his absence. The personnel of the Home at that time comprised Mr. Muller, and a man of the name of Desautels as guardian; Mrs. widow Barrette as cook, and her daughter as general servant. A couple of days after I entered in charge, I made an inspection of the house and premises; I found everything in order, the house had just been cleaned, the bed and bedding seemed to me to be clean, and not having heard any complaint about vermin, I made no particular examination in that respect. There was no complaint about anything else to me concerning any other thing about the house to me, except that some of the French immigrants told me that they were accustomed to

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drink wine in their country and felt the want of it here. I told them that wine was a luxury here and that it could not be provided in the house. I even prevented some of the French immigrants from introducing wine and beer in the house. I saw the food prepared, but I did not taste it; but there was no complaint of it. It appeared to me to be very good food.

There were some immigrants who came during I was there who had trades unknown in this country; and therefore these people were very hard to place; others did not seem much disposed to go to work immediately; they wanted to rest and wait a little longer. Mr. Muller reported to me three of these immigrants as unwilling to set to work, having been already provided with work three times, and having come back to the house each time, and being provided with work for the fourth time, they were unwilling to work until the following week. I told Mr. Muller to force them by famine, *i. e.* cutting off their dinner, so as to compel them to go to work right off. The three of whom I have spoken were respectively named Papa, Pigot, and Jogni.

I was generally entrusted with the general correspondence of the Immigration Home at Montreal; and we remonstrated frequently in letters to the department, and to Mr. Bossange, against the sending of certain classes of French immigrants, similar to those that had already been forwarded, who were hard to please, and some of them very poorly adapted to the requirements of this country. Mr. Bossange himself admitted in some of his letters that he was deceived in some of the immigrants he had forwarded to Canada.

With the English, Irish, and Scotch immigrants we had no difficulty, they generally did not remain long in the house, and found places at once. During the time I was in charge of the House, few German immigrants came. During my superintendency Mrs. Barrette acted as a hard working, sober and steady woman; she was a very kind hearted woman and used to lend her money to immigrants. For against which I put her on her guard. I found that Desautels, the guardian, was not a fit and proper person for his place, and he was discharged upon my re-

port. It was after Desautels' discharge, Mr. Muller replaced him, up to which time Mr. Muller had nothing to do with the management of the Home.

There arrived over two hundred immigrants during the time I was in charge of the immigrants. These were principally French and Belgians. Every day I asked Mr. Muller if he had any complaint to make about the house and immigrants; he seemed to be satisfied with the whole. I told him if anything was required I would attend to it.

When the complaints under the present investigation were known at the office, in the month of January last, Mr. C. E. Belle's resignation had been written out by me, but on finding that complaints had been made, and were in the hands of the department, I advised him not to send it, and therefore it was not sent. He decided himself with me that it was better not to send it under those circumstances.

This agency only gave Mr. Belle four hundred dollars a year, and having various other engagements on his hands, and a vast amount of trouble with this agency, he had determined to give it up before complaints were known in the office.

When it was heard that Mrs. Vancester had made complaints against Mr. Belle, I advised the latter to write to Mr. Maurice Delfosse, the Belgian Minister at Washington, who had been in Montreal some time before, and who appeared to be satisfied with things at the Home as they were, in order that he might telegraph or write to his Government, so that we might have some information about Mr. and Mrs. Vancester. We received the following answer, which I now produce, marked on the letter O. It was addressed to C. E. Belle.

Objected to by Mr. Monk, inasmuch as all the evidence connected with this letter and the production of the letter itself not being proved to be in the handwriting of the writer thereof, and the testimony relating thereto is in the nature of hearsay evidence and it not being in the power of the prosecution to contradict.

Objection reserved.

Mr. C. E. Belle produces the envelope in which was contained the letter of Mr. Delfosse.

This envelope bears the official seal of the Belgium Minister, and the post stamp of the United States, and in particular that of Washington.

Examined by the Commissioner.

Mr. Muller was at the Emigration Home during all the time I was in charge. He never complained to me about the conduct of my uncle, Mr. C. E. Belle. He made no complaint of any kind relating to the Home. After the return of Mr. C. E. Belle, I only went a couple of times to the Emigration Home. I went there yesterday. I did not make any inspection of it since I left the agency. During the time I was at the Home no complaints were made against the management by any body, nor against the Home itself. It was in the month of January last that I heard a portion of the complaint, forming the subject of this enquiry, spoken of.

Cross-examined.

To Mr. St. Pierre.—I have been acting as counsel for Mr. C. E. Belle in this *enquête* since Mr. Piché retired therefrom. It was during Mr. Belle's absence that the Emigration Home was under my care.

To Mr. Monk.—While I was at the house I found Mr. Muller a hard workingman, very active, fulfilling his duties to my entire satisfaction. Had he not done so, I would have discharged him at once.

And further witness saith not, and after having made his deposition re-affirming the same, hath signed.

J. A. A. BELLE.

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

JEAN FLEURY DUBISE, now of the City of Montreal, accountant, aged twenty-five years, after being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists, doth depose and say:

I am employed at the Grand Seminary in this city. I arrived in this country the first of October last. I was with a number of other emigrants. On my arrival I went to the Emigration Home, under the management of Mr. C. E. Belle. I lived in it for twelve days. I was well cared for. The food was excellent, and some of the emigrants said they had never ate so much in their lives. Our sleeping accommodation was very good and I did not see any vermin. I cannot but praise Mr. Belle for his conduct towards myself as well as the other emigrants. I came in the same ship as Mr. and Madame Monier from Liverpool to Quebec. The last named had a bad reputation on board, besides her conduct justified it. I saw her afterwards at the Emigration Home, where her language and manners were the same as on ship board. Her language was indecent, and she had the habit of swearing. She said to those who wished to hear her, that she came to this country to start a brothel.

Cross-examined.

To Mr. St. Pierre.—I lived twelve days at the Emigration Home, *i. e.*, from my arrival on the first of October, until the thirteenth of the same month. I slept in the shed in the yard. The accommodation for sleeping was good, and I slept well. I did not feel any cold. We had quilts that we had bought on the ship. My sleeping comrades were named, one Perner and the other Huilard.

Question.—Is it not true that you, and your two comrades, were in the habit of piling the mattresses one on top of the other, to prevent yourselves from catching cold?

Answer.—No. We did that, the last night only, but it was more through child's play than otherwise. We were the only persons sleeping in the shed (*hangard*) at that time, the others had gone away. We even said in fun that Mr. Muller could not find us under the mattresses the next morning. I never made complaint against the Emigration Home, nor of having suffered from cold. I swear that my two companions and myself left the Emigration Home together, and we found four other emigrants with

when we left by the railway. Mr. Muller accompanied us to the station. Mr. Muller reminds me it is not fifteen days since.

One of my companions, Huilard, had obtained a situation at Montreal as coachman, and having lost his place, returned to the Emigration Home. It is in this way he left Montreal with myself and my comrades to go to Ottawa.

Question.—Have you not, for some time past, been in the habit of associating with Madame Barrette?

Answer.—I accompanied her here three times, to make my deposition.

Question.—Is it to your knowledge that Mr. Belle sent you to Ottawa to get rid of you?

Answer.—No.

was sent to Ottawa, but I do not know by whom. From the moment Mr. Muller accompanied us to the station, I believed it was he who had sent me away, because if it had been Mr. Belle, I think he would have told me. I did not stay at Ottawa, on the contrary, the day following my arrival there I continued my journey as far as Pembroke. I returned from the last named place the 25th February last. It was Mr. Oswald, clerk in the Emigration Office, who placed me at the Grand Seminary.

And further witness saith not, re-affirming his deposition, and hath signed.

J. F. DURBIZE.

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

It being near five o'clock in the afternoon, the Commissioner adjourns the enquiry until to-morrow, Tuesday, the eighth of April instant, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

[Attested.]

PETER L. MACDONELL,

Secretary.



TUESDAY, the eighth of April, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

PRESENT :

CHARLES A. LEBLANC. Q. C.,

Commissioner.

Mr. ARCHILLE BELLE, in the name of Mr. C. E. Belle, submits twenty affidavits, signed by twenty different persons, purporting to shew that the Emigration Home is well conducted. The names of these persons are: 1, Hyppolite Vivian; 2, Joseph Gachet; 3, Joseph Gachet; 4, Bruelle Alexandre; 5, Auguste Lacroix; 6, Henri Cure; 7, Baron François; 8, Arsène Picard; 9, Pierre Guillard; 10, Oscar Mozer; 11, Amateur Lefevvre; 12, Pierre Gachet; 13, Pierre Bourdier; 14, Antoine Roche; 15, Fodrine Antoine; 16, Pierre Burdon; 17, Julien Cazet; 18, Armand Moreau; 19, Louis Berthelon; 20, Thomas Labourdette.

Mr. Archille Belle, on the part of Mr. Chs. Emmanuel Belle, tenders a voluntary declaration under oath of the said C. E. Belle, to the effect that he never at any time made an indecent proposition to any of the women who have sworn against him before this commission, nor to any of the women indicated or named by the witnesses for the prosecution, heard before the Commissioner; that on the contrary he always conducted himself towards these women with decency and reserve.

Mr. Monk objects to the reception of the declaration of Mr. C. E. Belle.

The Commissioner declares that he cannot receive this declaration under oath, on the part of Mr. C. E. Belle, inasmuch as Mr. Belle pleaded to the charge brought against him, and proceeded with the *enquête* for the defence with every possible latitude.

Counsel for Mr. C. E. Belle declare their *enquête* evidence closed.

And the Commissioner adjourns the enquiry to to-morrow, Wednesday, the ninth of April instant, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

[Attested,]

PETER L. MACDONELL,
Secretary.

WEDNESDAY, the ninth of April, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

PRESENT :

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, Q. C..

Commissioner.

[IN REBUTTAL.]

FRÉDÉRIC BONCORPS, now of the City of Montreal, and heretofore of Paris (France), architect, aged thirty years, being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, doth depose and say :

I was present during the visit made at the house of Mr. and Madame Pelzer, spoken of in the depositions of Mr. and Madame Pelzer and of Depleschin.

I was present when the witnesses gave their evidence before this enquiry.

When I entered the house, I was with Mr. Perrot. We found a Belgian then named Matchgeels, who kept a tobacco store in Montreal, but who has since abandoned it. There were also present, Mr. and Madame Pelzer, Depleschin and another individual, whose name I cannot now remember. It was the first time I had met the Belgian.

I positively affirm, that during the time I was at Pelzer's, there was no question of a sum of one hundred dollars offered to Depleschin to withdraw the deposition made by him before the

Police Committee against Madame Vancaster, nor was any sum of money whatever tendered. During the time I was there, money was not spoken of at all. If any money had been tendered, I would certainly have heard it, because we were, as we are now, in general conversation, and the tone of voice was even a little elevated.

I say that Mr. Pelzer formally lies when he speaks in his deposition of an offer of money having been made. I say that in that particular he has perjured himself. From the evidence given here by Pelzer in my presence, I would not believe him on oath, because he swore falsely in my presence. I declare the same thing in reference to the deposition of Madame Pelzer; and I equally affirm the same thing in relation to the deposition of Depleschin, as to the offer of money. I declare, that in this circumstance, they have all three perjured themselves.

Cross-examined.

To Mr. A. Belle.—I took an active part in this business in the interest of the immigrants.

Question.—Have you not taken an active part against Mr. Belle in the interest of the prosecution before this Commission?

Answer.—I devoted body and soul to collect the documents I thought necessary to discover the truth. I did not act directly against Mr. Belle. I did not know him privately in the matter, but as Agent of Emigration.

Question.—Have you not given instructions to the Counsel for the prosecution?

Answer.—Yes, Sir.

I assisted at a great part of this investigation, and I only withdrew through deference to Mr. Monk, who requested me.

I assisted at the enquiry to give information to Mr. Monk, in order that the truth should be elicited. The Belgian of whom I spoke, in my deposition, spoke in Flemish and French during the visit to Pelzer's. I do not understand the Flemish language; it is

for this reason that I say he did not make an offer of one hundred dollars, for the witnesses above mentioned positively declared that the offer was made in the French language.

Question.—Did not the witnesses, Mr. and Madame Pelzer, and Depleschin, respectively declare in their depositions, that the offer of the money in question was so made in the Flemish language?

Answer.—I cannot answer this question affirmatively, but what I can swear is that they said we could all understand.

Question.—Can you swear if the following Flemish words were used in your presence “als gy ume woorden wilk intoekken zal ik u honderdt dollars doen hebben?”

Answer.—I cannot swear as to that, consequently I cannot say if the Belgian in question used these words to Depleschin in my presence.

I was not in the habit of visiting the Pelzer's before the occasion referred to.

To Mr. Doherty.—The Belgian in question was at Pelzer's when I arrived with Perrot, but I cannot say how long the said Belgian had been at Pelzer's before our arrival. We all three left together.

I declare that I assisted at the investigation from the day that Mr. Belle produced his witnesses, and during that time I gave instructions and directions touching the examination of the witnesses I thought necessary; and I even submitted certain questions to him which I believed ought to be put to the witnesses.

Re-examined.

To Mr. St. Pierre.—We had no money between us there, the Belgian, Perrot and myself; at least the Belgian told me that he did not own one hundred *sous*. I had more, and as for Perrot I think he was not very rich.

And the witness Boncorps further saith not, and re-affirms his deposition, and hath signed,

BONCORPS.

ISIDORE PERROT, of the City of Montreal, Chemist, a witness already heard before this investigation, having been duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, doth depose and say:

To Mr. Monk.—I never at any time said, that I did not believe in God; on the contrary I am a Catholic, and I practice my religion as all honest men should do. I never soiled my mouth by using such expressions.

I went to Pelzer's house with Mr. Boncorps. We found a Belgian there whose name I do not know. There were present upon that occasion, Mr. and Madame Pelzer, Mr. Depleschin, and the Belgian in question.

During my visit, I did not hear a single word having reference to an offer of money to Depleschin, to withdraw his deposition against Madame Vancaster. I did not hear anything like this. If an offer of this kind had been made, I would certainly have heard it, because we were all speaking together, and even in a voice loud enough to be heard by the neighbours. The room is a small room. The Pelzers, husband and wife, and Depleschin, in swearing that an offer of money had been made, did not tell the truth. In reference to this offer, I do not believe the oath made by these three persons.

Question.—Did you never say to Mrs. Joseph Pelzer, a witness heard before this investigation, that it was nothing to take an oath?

Answer.—I never held such a proposition.

Question.—Did you never say, in the presence of the said Pelzer and his wife, that there was no God, and that you did not believe in God?

Answer.—I repeat, as I said a short time ago, that I never soiled my mouth by the use of such expressions.

I know Madame Monier, a witness heard at this *enquête*, for four or five months only, or since her arrival at Montreal. To my view she is a very honest woman and a good mother of a family. From what I know of her I do not think her capable of making

a false oath, I have been frequently in company with her, more particularly at the house of Dr. DeBonald of this city, and she always conducted herself in a very respectable manner. I know that Madame Monier attends her religious duties every Sunday as a good woman ought to do.

I know Pelzer and his wife well; they were my neighbours for five or six weeks. I noticed that they were intoxicated four or five times a week at least. They became so brutalized from liquor that I would not believe them on oath. One day the woman Pelzer fell from the top of the stairs with the girl which was nearly killed. She was then tolerably drunk.

Cross-examined.

Question.—Do you go to mass every Sunday?

Answer.—I go to mass when it pleases me to go.

Question.—Are you in the habit of giving yourself this pleasure?

Answer.—I give myself the pleasure when it suits me.

During my visits to the Pelzers the conversations were held in two languages, French and Flemish. I understand some words in Flemish, but I do not know the language. If it had been in question I would have understood perfectly.

Question.—The Moniers had a child that died some time after their arrival in this country?

Question.—Did you not take an active and voluntary part in the affairs of the Paris Commune?

Answer.—As the question has no reference to the present enquiry, I will only answer when you demand proof.

Question.—Have you not been actually under the sentence of death by contumacy, for having taken an active and voluntary part in the affairs of the Paris Commune; having been thus condemned by the sixth council of war?

The question is objected to by Mr. St. Pierre as being foreign to this enquiry, and not being of a nature to discredit the witness, supposing he answered affirmatively, and whereas the answer would only be proof of the fact that he took part in a political movement, and not that he was guilty of any heinous crime himself by which he would have been disgraced; that if he had committed any reprehensible act, he would not be obliged by law to incriminate himself by his answer.

Objection reserved.

Answer.—I refuse to answer this question.

Re-examined.—By Mr. St. Pierre.

Question.—Is it to your knowledge that you were condemned to death?

Answer.—No sir.

Question.—Are you not the same Perrot who has already given evidence at this enquiry, and who produced a special certificate signed by Mr. Bossange, Canadian Immigration Agent at Paris?

Answer.—Yes.

Re-cross-examined.—By Mr. A. Belle.

Question.—Did you not receive notice through a letter from your sister of the aforesaid sentence of the Sixth Council of War?

The question is objected to by Mr. St. Pierre, because it is illegal.

Objection reserved.

Answer.—I am not here to communicate the news I receive from my family.

And further witness saith not, and he hath signed his deposition.

PERROT, Fils.

It being six o'clock in the afternoon, the Commissioner adjourns the *enquête* until to-morrow, Thursday, the tenth of April instant, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

(Attested,)

PETER L. MACDONELL,
Secretary.

THURSDAY, the tenth April, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

PRESENT:

CHARLES A. LEBLANC, Q. C.,

Commissioner.

Two o'clock, P. M.

EDOUARD MACHGEELS, now of the City of Montreal, Commercial Traveller, aged twenty-six years, being duly sworn, upon the Holy Evangelists, doth depose and say:—I am from the City of Anvers in Belgium, and I have been living for three years in Montreal. I saw the Pelzers only once. I also know Depleschin from having seen him three or four times. The visit to Pelzers took place about the month of February. I found at Pelzers, himself, his wife and Depleschin. A few minutes later, perhaps ten minutes, Messrs. Boncorps and Perrot came in. I already knew these last named gentlemen by sight. I swear positively that I did not upon this, more than upon any other occasion, offer any sum of money to Depleschin or any other person whomsoever, and I swear that the Pelzers and Depleschin, in so stating under oath, have committed perjury. During the time of my visit, there was no question of money whatever, not a word was said upon the subject. I am convinced they swore falsely in this circumstance. I certainly would not believe either the Pelzers or Depleschin under oath.

Upon the visit I spoke equally the Flemish and French languages, but I spoke to Madame Pelzer particularly in Flemish. I went to Pelzers to meet Depleschin, but my visit had no reference to immigration affairs.

I have not the slightest ill-feeling against Mr. Belle, on the contrary, I have to thank him for all that he has done for me.

Cross-examined.—To Mr. A. Belle.

Question.—Have you not said, in this *enquête* room, to Mr. Napoleon Archambault, that you had in fact, offered to Mr. Depleschin, at the time of your visit to the Pelzers, a sum of one hundred dollars to make him withdraw his deposition against Madame Vancaster?

Answer.—Never in my life.

And further the witness saith not, re-affirms his deposition, and hath signed.

E. MACHGEEELS.

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

HANS MULLER, the first witness heard in this investigation, having been duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, doth depose and say :

To Mr. Monk.—I was present at the examination of Dr. Picault in this enquiry.

I remember perfectly well the interview had with that gentleman, and which is specified in Dr. Picault's examination.

Question.—Do you recollect that gentleman stating under oath that about the termination of your interview with him you made use of the words following: "*Oh Mr. Belle, je te ferai destituer, et je me vengerai de lui.*"

Answer.—I do recollect it.

Question.—Did you on the occasion in question or at any other time whatever make use of those words or others of similar import?

Answer.—I never did, neither there nor any where else, to any mortal living.

I remember the time when Mr. Archille Belle was in charge of the Emigration Home during the absence of his uncle.

Mr. Archelle Belle when calling at the Home immediately entered the office and stood next to me.

The reason why the Scotch, English and Irish immigrants left as quick as possible after their arrival, is because they were at once dissatisfied with the aspect of the house; and because the house-keeper could only speak the French language, and they were immediately, on shewing their dissatisfaction, made acquainted by me that there was, for the Scotch, the St. Andrew's Home, where the Scotch would receive particular care; and for the English, the St. George's Home.

I had instructions, both from Mr. Belle and the National Institutions already mentioned, to act as I did.

Mr. Monk fyles a written paper marked P, in Hans Müller's handwriting, but signed by the parties whose signatures are appended thereto, and written at their request, at the St. Andrew's Home, in this city, in the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Campbell, the Superintendents thereof. The document speaks for itself.

Mr. Monk also produces a certificate from a number of merchants of Montreal, as to the capacity and character of witness, marked Q.

I hold Madame Monier in great respect, because she is a woman of chaste and decided character, and attends very punctually to her religious duties.

I have every reason to believe her a woman of strict veracity.

I have full confidence in her oath.

I would believe her statement, even without an oath.

I know the Pelzers and Mr. Depleschin. Henri Depleschin is a complete drunkard, and a notorious bad character; as to the Pelzers, both of them are addicted to drink, and particularly the woman Pelzer, and I know as a fact that they are of the lowest character. I would not believe either of them under oath, nor any of them.

The Counsel for Mr. C. E. Belle refuse to cross-examine the witness.

And further the witness saith not, and he re-affirms his deposition, and hath signed

H. MULLER.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

ETIENNE ADAM, now of the City of Montreal, modeller, aged thirty years, having been duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, doth depose and say:—I am from France, and I arrived at Quebec the twenty-sixth of June last, and at Montreal between the tenth and twentieth of August. I cannot give the date exactly.

I went once to the Emigration Home through curiosity. I found employment immediately at Montreal.

To Mr. Monk.—I know Mr. and Madame Félix Gagnon, No. 31, College street, where I live myself. I was present at one Gagnon's wedding in that house. I have no complaint to make against Madame Félix Gagnon. I know the newly married man Gagnon from having seen him at his wedding and frequently since in the house.

At the wedding party I danced with Madame Vancaster; we danced a quadrille of four figures, which appeared very funny to the spectators, who did not understand it. Several French ladies took part in the dance, which we repeated twice. It was not this dance which made the ladies withdraw from the room, but the conduct of the groom, who was seated in the corner of

the room with his wife on his knees, and his hands hidden under her clothes. This action was the signal for the French ladies who were present to leave the room.

I know the Pelzers; the woman Pelzer, on the day she said she had drank three glasses of beer only, was so drunk, that she struck the walls of the corridor, and allowed her child to fall on the ground. The child began to cry, and to pacify it, she gave it a beating.

I know Madame Vancaster intimately enough, because we were neighbours; she is very good hearted, but a little talkish. I do not believe that she would make a false oath.

The Attorneys of Mr. C. E. Belle decline cross-examining the witness.

And further the witness saith not, re-affirming his deposition, and hath signed.

E. ADAM.

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

ADOLPHE BRUN, now of the City of Montreal, preparer of photograph paper, aged twenty-seven years, having been duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, doth depose and say:—I am a Frenchman. I disembarked the 26th June at Quebec, where I remained for three days. I arrived at Montreal three days later, and I went to the Immigration Home, St. Antoine street, in this city, in which I lived from ten to twelve days

I know de Bordeaux from having met him occasionally. During the time I lived in the Emigration Home, I saw lice without the aid of a microscope. To my knowledge, there was a great deal too much vermin in the Home. We did not require a microscope to see them.

Madame Barrette, before assuming her duties, about the month of July, told me that she did not like to sleep in the Emigration Home, because of the bad food and the vermin.

Not more than fifteen days ago, one of my friends left the Emigration Home with his clothes so full of vermin, that we were obliged to throw them in the snow, and to lend him a change.

Any man who swears that he could not find a louse in the Emigration Home, even with a microscope, does not tell the truth.

I know the Pelzers perfectly well, and Depleschin and Madame Félix Gagnon, since the month of July last. I have nothing to say against the conduct of Madame Gagnon. I know Madame Vancouver to be an honest woman. I was her nearest neighbor, and from what I know of her, I do not believe she would swear a false oath; and although a little light in her expressions, I believe her to be as honest as any lady in Montreal.

The Attorneys of Mr. C. E. Belle decline cross-examining the witness.

And further the witness saith not, re-affirming his deposition, and hath signed.

ADOLPHE BRUN.

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

GEORGE CORNWALL CONBOY, surveyor and accountant, now of the City of Montreal, aged twenty-eight years, after being sworn on the Holy Evangelists, saith :

I came to this country in the month of August last. I went to the Emigrants' Home, being advised that it was safer to go there than to a hotel. I spent one night at the Home. I went to bed but could not stay there one hour on account of the vermin in the bed. The place was a regular flea bag, or vermin bag. The bed was so full of lice that I felt myself insulted on being asked to sleep there. I sat up till morning, and complained to the house-keeper of this state of things; she could not understand me, because she knew not the English language. I complained afterwards to Mr. Muller. The bed in the room where I went to bed was filthy in the extreme and a disgrace to any civilized country.

And further witness saith not, he declares this his deposition contains the truth, and hath signed.

GEO. C. CONBOY.

C. A. LEBLANC,
Commissioner.

Mr. Monk produces a certificate signed by the Mayor of Terrebonne, in favor of Isidore Perrot, a witness heard in this *enquête*, marked R.

COUNTER REBUTTAL.

NAPOLÉON PLACIDE ARCHAMBAULT, of the City of Montreal, Printer, aged twenty-five years, being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, doth depose and say:—I know Mr. Machgeels, the witness heard in the present enquiry. I was present and heard him give his evidence. I have already very often assisted at the sittings of this Commission. I saw Mr. Machgeels upon one other occasion apart from to-day. I spoke to him. It was on the afternoon that Pelzer gave his evidence. I was also present when Pelzer gave his evidence.

During the examination of Mr. Pelzer by Mr. Archille Belle, when Mr. Belle asked the witness Pelzer if it was true that the Belgian had offered a hundred dollars to Depleschin. I addressed myself to Machgeels, who was near to me, asking him if such was the case. He answered "Yes," but it was through a joke, as he had not a *sou* in his pocket. I knew Mr. Machgeels sometime before this.

To Mr. Doherty.—Machgeels told me that it was true, that he had offered a hundred dollars to Depleschin.

Cross-examined.

To Mr. Monk.—Mr. Machgeels spoke to me in French. I do not speak Flemish.

To Mr. St. Pierre.—I have followed the present enquiry for about three weeks or a month. I also very frequently follow the Criminal Term.

Question.—Are you not the person who offered to swear to certain facts in the Quesnel affair, to one of the Attorneys for the defence, with the view of securing Quesnel's acquittal ?

Answer.—No. I do not know Mr. Quesnel.

Question.—Where did you get the "black eye," that you have now on your right eye ?

Answer.—I have no black eye. The mark on my right eye is a birth mark.

I am a printer by trade, but I have not worked for some time.

Question.—Did you not say in reply to the last question submitted to you by me that it was not I who gave you the black eye you have ?

Answer.—Yes, I said so, and I added that it was not I who had offered to give evidence in the Quesnel affair.

Question.—For how long a time have you known the Belgian of whom you have spoken ?

Answer.—I have known him since the municipal election of Mr. Munroe, that is to say *c. a. d.* over a year. We both worked in favor of Munroe.

And further the witness saith not, re-affirming his deposition, and hath signed.

NAP. ARCHAMBAULT.

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

It being five o'clock in the afternoon, and the parties having declared their *enquête* closed, the Commissioner declares the present *enquête* closed and ended, reserving to the advocates representing respectively the Public Minister and the National Societies, to produce certain affidavits, and to establish the good character of Madame Monier.

C. A. LEBLANC,

Commissioner.

(Attested,)

PETER L. MACDONELL,

Secretary.

MONTREAL, fifteenth April, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

Mr. Monk, the Attorney, representing the National Societies, produces this day, (15th April,) a memorandum recapitulating the proof against Mr. C. E. Belle.

This memorandum is accompanied with six (6,) affidavits and the certificate of a Priest, all proving the personal respectability of Madame Monier.

I. The certificate is that of J. T. Tallet, Priest, and marked I.

The affidavits are those of:

II. Mr. Doctor de Bonald;

III. Josephine Puginier, widow Damas;

IV. Joseph Germaux;

V. Délina Cloutier;

VI. Belzémire Lapointe;

VII. Jean Cloutier.

Messrs. Doherty and A. A. Belle, the Attorneys of Mr. C. E. Belle, produce this day, 15th April, 1873, their memorandum in support of the proof submitted by them, testifying as to the innocence of their client.

