

Society Pages

Volume 2, Number 1
Spring 2004

Letter from the President

March 26, 2004

I am pleased to introduce you to our latest newsletter that brings you up to date with the activities of the Society.

As you all know, Council and the Executive Committee have been very busy for the past several months moving forward with the Morrin Centre Project. The Project is at a critical stage in completing the hierarchy necessary to begin the work. We have been in regular and sometimes intense contact with the Mayor of Quebec, representatives from the ministère de la Culture et des Communications, and other government representatives trying to finalise the financing for this project. Times are tough, but we are confident that the enthusiasm with which everyone treats the project will be sufficient to carry it.

There have been some important changes in the people working at the library, and I take this opportunity of welcoming France Cliche, the Morrin Centre Project Manager, Catherine McKenna, our new library clerk and Virginia Roe, our Outreach and Marketing Officer. I also take this opportunity of thanking Christine Veilleux for her devoted service to the library over the years. I wish her every success in her new position, all the while hoping that she will continue to lend a hand with her invaluable knowledge of the Canadiana collection.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the AGM next Wednesday, April 7th.

Sincerely,

David Blair

Library Hours : Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 9:30am – 4:30pm
Wednesday: 9:30am – 6:30pm
Saturday & Sunday: 10:00am – 4:00pm

Easter Weekend: CLOSED April 9, 10 & 11

Membership: \$60 per year (for the whole family)

Donations: Your support through donations assures the future success of the Lit & Hist. Thank you for your contribution. Charitable receipts are issued for donations of ten dollars or more.

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People Pages

*Our section dedicated to the people of the LHSQ.
Some new and old faces at the Lit & Hist.*

Council Members

David Blair	President
Diane Kameen	Vice-President
James Haberlin	Treasurer
Thomas Feininger	Secretary
Marie Creighton Tremblay	Honourary Librarian
Peter Black	
Peter Dunn	
Grant MacIntosh	
Martha Price	
Dorothy O'Brien	
Hélène Thibault	
Sharon Frenette	
Micheal McCormack	
Marianna O'Gallagher	
Sheila Wren	

France Cliche

Our new Project Manager, France Cliche, worked for the Society last year as a consultant from Daniel Arbour et associés. France's experience in building and cultural resource management makes her an asset to the Society as we work towards opening the Morrin Centre. France is heading up our creative and hard-working development team.

Christine Veilleux

After eight years as Library Technician, Christine Veilleux has been offered a full-time position with the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions (CIHM). Christine has been our Canadiana caretaker and history expert. We are sad to see her go, but wish her all the best in the future. Christine will continue to volunteer some of her time at the library in different capacities. Recently, she agreed to chair the Canadiana Development Committee.

Virginia Roe

Virginia was hired at the beginning of March as our Outreach and Marketing Officer. Thanks to the grant from Fonds Jeunesse, Virginia will be working to increase the Society's visibility within the Quebec City community.

Catherine McKenna

Our new library clerk, Catherine McKenna, will be working at the desk on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Originally from Quebec, Catherine has recently returned to her roots. Catherine is an avid reader and a welcome addition to our team.

Guillaume Charest

Guillaume was hired for a 9-week contract to update our Archive Guide. He has prepared the archives for temporary storage during the upcoming building restoration. He has done a fabulous job and we wish him all the best!

Patrick Donovan

Patrick Donovan is working on his Masters at the Université de Montréal. He is interested in the Morrin College period, and is currently doing research at the library.

Thanks to all our wonderful volunteers for their dedication, their time and their involvement. The Society wouldn't be the same without you!

Coming this summer to the People Pages: A feature on our Volunteers.

IN OUR COLLECTONS

A recurring feature about the treasures from our collections.

The Campaign of 1760 in Canada: A narrative attributed to Chevalier Johnstone

By Christine Veilleux

Chevalier de Johnstone, was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, on 25th July 1719. He was the son of James Johnstone, a merchant, and his mother belonged to the Douglas family. Little is known of his childhood and education.

When Prince Charles, the Young Pretender, landed in Scotland in 1745, Johnstone was eager to join his army. He was soon appointed aide-de-camp to James Johnstone, known as the Lord George Murray, second in command of the rebels. After the battle of Prestonpans (Lothian) in September 1745, the Prince granted him a captain's commission. After raising some men, he joined the Duke of Perth's Regiment. Following the rout at Culloden in 1746, he managed to escape north. With the help of Lady Jane Douglas, he made his way to London, then to Rotterdam and finally to Paris where he was introduced to the Marquis de Puyzieux, minister of foreign affairs.

His captain's commission was not recognised in France despite promises from Puyzieux. In 1748, he sailed from Rochefort to Île Royale (Cape Breton Island) as an ensign with the colonial regular troops, and in 1750 he was sent to Louisbourg where, four years later, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant. When Louisbourg was attacked in 1758 by Jeffery Amherst, Johnstone was stationed on the Île Saint-Jean (now Prince Edward Island). He escaped to Acadia and was ordered to conduct some English prisoners from Miramichi (N.B.) to Quebec. Arriving there in September, he soon became aide-de-camp to Lévis, but when Lévis left for Montreal, Johnstone remained in Quebec as aide-de-camp to Montcalm. Following the siege of Quebec, he retreated to Île-aux-Noix, then to Montreal. After the capitulation of the city in 1760, he returned to Quebec and sailed back to France.

Johnstone's role in the history of New France was minor, his main legacy being his memoirs, which were composed for the most part after his return to France. In 1761, he retired from the Marine service and the following year, was made

a knight of the Order of Saint-Louis. He settled in Paris where he died after 1791.

Upon his return to France, Johnstone wrote his memoirs in French. In them, he gives an account of the Jacobite Campaign in Scotland and relates his own adventures therein and after. The original manuscript was deposited in the Archives of the Collège Écossais in Paris before being returned to the Johnstone family in Scotland in the middle of the nineteenth Century.

In 1868, the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec published in the 2nd series of its *Historical Documents* a collection of manuscripts relating to the early history of Canada. Among these were two documents in English attributed to Chevalier Johnstone. The first was a *Dialogue in Hades between Wolfe and Montcalm*, the other being *The Campaign of 1760 in Canada* which describes the siege of Quebec and the Conquest of Canada in a very light, original and personal way. These two documents were reprinted by the Society in 1887. Copies of this last edition of *The Campaign of 1760 in Canada* are still available for consultation at the Library as part of the Canadiana collection.

Later, Philippe Baby Casgrain, one of our Society's ex-presidents, noted many apparent peculiarities of style in these versions supposedly written in the author's mother tongue, which caused him to doubt their authenticity. It was eventually acknowledged that these versions were a translation from the Chevalier de Johnstone's original French Memoirs, which had been handed down by a descendant of his sister, Cecilia.

Through the efforts of Casgrain and of Dr. Doughty, Deputy Minister of Archives in Ottawa, the original French manuscript was finally located in Scotland. A transcript was made and deposited in the Archives of the Literary and Historical Society where it can still be consulted today (L1/H2). Part of the manuscript dealing with Canada, including the *Dialogue des Morts (A Dialogue in Hades)*, was then published in French by the Society in the 9th series of its *Historical Documents* (1915).



New Books for Children...Tall and Small!

By Caroline Lamothe, Head Librarian

Geronimo Stilton

Who is Geronimo Stilton? He runs a newspaper in New Mouse City, the capital of Mouse Island, but his true passion is writing adventure stories. When contacted for an interview, Mr. Stilton explained: "My stories are fame-mouse-ly funny. They are whisker-licking-good tales, and that's a promise!"

Pick up Geronimo Stilton's latest adventures today! The library has the following titles: *The Lost Treasure of the Emerald Eye*, *The Curse of the Cheese Pyramid*, *Cat and Mouse in a Haunted House*, *I'm too Fond of my Fur*, and *Four Mice Deep in the Jungle*.

Britannica Learning Library

This brilliant series explores different themes in beautifully illustrated books. You'll discover answers to your questions through pictures, articles and fun facts. Highly recommended. The Library carries the following titles:

The Arts

Planet Earth

Religions Around the World

Science and Nature

Legends, Myths and Folklore

Technology and Inventions

Wildlife Wonders

Smelly Socks, by Robert Munsch

Tina loves her brand new socks so much, she's never, ever going to take them off! But when her wonderful socks start to get smelly, her friends have to take action!¹ Smell not included.

Vote for Duck, by Doreen Cronin

Duck doesn't like doing chores. He doesn't like picking tiny bits of grass and espresso beans out of his feathers. "Why is farmer Brown in charge anyway?" he wonders. So Duck calls an election...wins...and decides he's meant for bigger and better things.²

¹ Description taken from book cover.

² Idem.

A selection of the latest acquisitions at the library

by C. Lamothe

This list represents only a small portion of what was actually purchased in the last three months. Do you have suggestions of book purchases for the Book Committee? Bring reviews to the desk, and they will be passed on to the Committee for consideration. We appreciate your input!

Non-fiction

- Abley, Mark. – *Spoken here: travels among threatened languages*
Adams, Gerry. – *A farther shore: Ireland's long road to peace*
Chalmers, M. – *The lesser evil: the diaries of Victor Klemperer*
Findley, Timothy. – *Journeyman: travels of a writer*
Meredith, R. Clive. – *Hunting diary of R. Meredith, from 1911 to 1960*
Mortimer, John. – *Where there's a will*
Schama, Simon. – *Oliver Cromwell*
Shaw, Matthew. – *Great Scots! How the Scots created Canada*

Fiction

- Byatt, A.S. – *Little black book of stories*
Chevalier, Tracy. – *The lady and the unicorn*
Grisham, John. – *The last juror*
Leonard, Elmore. – *Mr. Paradise*
McCabe, John. – *Herding cats*
Theroux, Paul. – *Stranger at the Palazzo d'Oro*
Trollope, Joanna. – *Brother and sister*

Mystery fiction

- Bruen, Ken. – *Killing of the tinkers*
Cornwell, Patricia. – *Blow fly*
Dibdin, Michael. – *Medusa*
Leon, Donna. – *Doctored evidence*
Rankin, Ian. – *Question of blood*
Robinson, Peter. – *Playing with fire*

The Morrin Centre Development Project

A page devoted to informing our members and the general public about the Project and our progress.

Mission

The mission of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec is to preserve, develop and share the diverse cultural life of the Quebec City region's English-speaking community through innovative, responsive and effective services.

Vision

The Literary and Historical Society of Quebec's vision is to open, by 2006, the dynamic, welcoming and well-managed **Morrin Centre** that showcases the beautiful heritage building in which it is housed. Inside the centre, the public can enjoy cultural activities, exhibits highlighting the heritage of the English-speaking community, as well as library and archival services – all in an English-language environment.

The LHSQ welcomes your questions and input concerning the Morrin Centre Development Project. Please inquire to Virginia Roe, or e-mail her at info.morrincentre@bellnet.ca.

LHSQ Quiz

Hand in your answers to Virginia by April 23, 2004
e-mail info.morrincentre@bellnet.ca

Participate in our Society Pages Quiz and you have the chance to win a prize (not to mention the prestige of winning).

1. What is the name of the replica ship in the Library?
2. Which former LHSQ President received the Order of Canada?
3. How many people work at the Library desk? Name them.
4. How old was James Douglas when he died?
5. Who wrote the children's book Mr Peabody's Apples?
6. What did James Johnstone write about?
7. What did John Adams write in his book A River Or Up Trees about the difference between British school children and Canadian school children?
8. Who wrote *My Quebec Collection*?
9. How much money did the LHSQ raise at the Christmas Bake Sale last year?
10. What purpose was the Morrin College building originally built for?

The answers are not always so obvious, but with a little investigation you could be our winner!

BOOK REVIEW

We invite you to write a book review for the Society Pages.

By Louisa Blair

In a river or up trees
Quebec children in 1900

Adams, John. *The Protestant School System in the Province of Quebec*. Longmans, Green & Co. London; & E.M. Renouf, Montreal 1902.

It's not just the new books that make this library a treasure for the English-speaking community. The other day I came across an ancient little book published in 1902 by John Adams, a Scottish educator who was invited to Quebec to make an inquiry into the Protestant Schools in 1901. He travelled the length and breadth of Quebec visiting every little one-room school house in the province, interviewing their long-suffering and dedicated teachers in depth, as well as investigating the more sophisticated academies such as Quebec High School. He then wrote an entertaining and personal account of his findings, an account that gives us a rare glimpse of the lives of anglophone children in Quebec at the turn of the century.

His most severe comments were reserved for the lack of funding for the system, especially salaries paid to school teachers. Women teachers were paid \$14 per month. This, however, was double what was paid to women teachers in Catholic schools. Quoting a speaker at an educational conference that he attended, Adams wrote "it takes all the stiffening out of a man's backbone when he wants to speak proudly of a people who will do that." Yet almost without exception, he found extraordinary dedication in the humblest of teachers. Most stayed behind for two or three hours after school every day to "push on some more advanced pupil who cannot get proper attention during the school period."

The ordinary schoolhouse was a simple one-room building with a stove in the middle, with a lean-to outhouse and woodshed. The

schools were so under funded that sometimes teachers had to use the proceeds of the school concerts to buy basic supplies such as a broom, an ash-bucket, or chalk for the board. However, most moved heaven and earth to afford a subscription to the daily newspaper, which would be available on a reading stick, and the first item on the daily agenda would be a perusal and discussion of the current affairs of the day.

Adams noted that there was a significant difference between Canadian school children and British school children. "A visitor from the Old Country cannot fail to be struck by the greater attention given to children's feelings and rights in Canada. The pupils count for more in the schools."

Unlike in Britain, where children were to be *seen and not heard*, and you didn't speak until you were spoken to, Canadian kids felt quite free to converse freely with their teachers, and during his interviews with teachers Adams was frequently interrupted by children correcting the information the teacher was giving him, interruptions that the teacher accepted gracefully. This was not a consequence of "any ill-breeding on the part of the pupils;" he

wrote, "It is simply the outcome of the early recognition in Canada of the equality of all men in relation to matters of fact.... At bottom the pupils

are as respectful to the teachers as our British pupils are to theirs."

The result of this “greater intimacy between teachers and pupils,” says Adams, and the pupil’s sense that he was “entitled to talk with his teacher on points of common interest,” was that “leaving accent and pronunciation out of account, the Canadian pupils talk much better than British pupils.”

Adams was remarkable for being able to leave accent and pronunciation out of account in making this evaluation, something many Britons today are still unable to do in judging their North American counterparts.

Adams took pains to study the curriculum of the schools: English, history, arithmetic, French, physics, algebra, Latin, writing, drawing, scripture, singing, geography, physical training, temperance, and health. An elementary teacher was hard put to teach all these subjects: there weren’t enough hours in the week. But if she left out singing, for example, her salary was docked by \$10 per year. Adams reported that rural teachers scoffed at the idea of physical education. The children already walk a mile and a half each way to school, they told him, and the rest of the time are “in the river or up trees.” Neither did they bother with hygiene or temperance, even though both were obligatory.

Adams was disapproving of the contempt with which Latin was held by many teachers. The kids only need it if they are going to university, they told him, and 95% of them don’t go. “Give my boy plenty of English,

Arithmetic, Commercial Geography and enough French to hold his own in an office,” one parent told him.

French teaching was as bad as it was in England, said Adams, and was optional in many elementary schools. In spite of the children being surrounded by French-speaking neighbours, he said, “many teachers teach the language as a guide book teaches it to those who are about to enter a foreign country.” Spoken French learned by the children wasn’t bad, he said, but was spoken in that unfortunate local accent. But both parents and teachers defended the local accent, saying, “if French is to be learned as a living language it should be learned in the form that will cause no comment among the people among who it is to be used.”

Canadian history was very poorly taught, Adams reported. Much better taught were British, Greek and Roman history, “chiefly because the teachers know more about them.” Available text books on Canadian history were so boring that he recommended teachers dispense with them entirely and teach it orally. “Canadian history at the early stages – at what may be termed the Heroic Period – is interesting enough,” he writes. “But it soon becomes a record of constitutional changes which are in themselves intensely dull for young people.”

Here’s a bit of Quebec history that isn’t dull at all. And it’s at the Library!

Christmas Sale and Raffle 2003

By Caroline Lamothe, head librarian

With the invaluable help of dedicated volunteers, staff, and Council members, as well as the generosity of our partners old and new, the 2003 edition of the Society’s Christmas Sale and Raffle was a great success on December 13, 2003!

For the first time this year, the Orchestre Symphonique de Québec offered two packages of eight concerts. This great contribution enticed many a ticket buyer! The sale of baked goods, items from the odds and ends table and tickets for the raffle brought in a total of \$1978, up \$671 from last year. A heartfelt thank you goes out to our sponsors, some of which have been contributing for many years: La Maison Simons, Auberge Saint-Antoine, La Boutique de Noël de Québec, CBC Radio One 104,7 FM, La Maison Anglaise, Restaurant Le Continental, Roots, and R.E. and Miriam Blair.... Also, a great big round of applause to all who got involved, a little or a lot, and helped make this event possible.

Blast from the Past

A new section dedicated to the re-telling of news. A look at important news events and happenings of the past.

Morrin College Fire By Virginia Roe

On May 12, 1966, an Argentinean man named Alberto Oscar Pipino, 23, was found guilty of arson after setting fire to the Morrin College building on February 10 of that year. Pipino was sentenced to two years in prison by Judge Achille Pettigrew and was to be deported after serving his sentence.

Pipino reportedly walked into the Library, set two bottles of inflammable liquid on the shelves in the back, lit them and left. Two minutes after he had left the Librarian discovered the fire. Later, a witness and firefighter said the explosive is called a Molotov cocktail bomb.

Firefighters threw books out the windows of the building in order to save some of them from the fire. The damage was reportedly minimized because of the firefighters quick thinking. Damages were later reported at around \$2,650.

Pipino claimed to be a separatist. He claimed that several islands off the coast of Argentina were being ruled by the Common Wealth against the will of the people of the island. Although he was not a Quebec separatist, he felt the British were similarly ruling Canada, and he supposedly set the fire to destroy the statue of the Wolfe Monument.

At his trial Pipino asked the fire department official twice if there was a statue of James Wolfe in the library. Both times the answer the witness gave was no and brought smiles to the faces of people in the courtroom.

The Bell Telephone Company gave the Literary and Historical Society the statue of Wolfe in 1898. Whether the statue was indeed

in the Library at the time of the fire remains to be seen³.

When pronouncing the sentence Judge Pettigrew commented "Canadians know what they want and don't need foreign agents to tell them how to conquer or protect their independence"⁴.

The charge of arson was one of two crimes Pipino was accused of. The other charge of attempted suicide was described in the Chronicle-Telegraph on April 29, 2004: Quebec City Police const Gaston Simard said that during the night of April 11 he accompanied Pipino to the city hall men's washroom. "I heard glass break and saw Pipino standing on a radiator. His hands were covered with blood and a window had been smashed"⁵.

A Quebec Hotel Dieu doctor told the court the injuries were not sufficient to make Pipino die, so Judge Pettigrew acquitted him.



³ Information pertaining to the whereabouts of the Wolfe Statue in the winter of 1966 would be very helpful. Please speak to Virginia Roe info.morrincentre@bellnet.ca.

⁴ *The Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph*, May 13, 1966.

⁵ *The Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph*, April 29, 1966.

Library Bulletin Board

Our news and events section.

Volunteering

Spring has arrived, so now is the time to roll up your sleeves and get involved! With all the preparations for the Morrin Centre volunteers are needed at the library for various projects. Please speak to our Outreach and Marketing Officer, Virginia Roe, about how you can help out. Any time you can dedicate would be greatly appreciated. Some of our present volunteers are spending two or three hours per week at the Library, others are volunteering five or six hours per week. We welcome you to sign-up for the day(s) and time(s) that suit you best. **Volunteer Appreciation Week is April 27 – May 3, 2004. Activities will be held at the Library.**

The Mobile Library

The Mobile Library is a free service being offered to members who are temporarily or permanently unable to come to the library to borrow books. Please inquire about this service by calling Danielle on Wednesdays or Thursdays at (418) 694-9147. Certain restrictions apply.

Member Survey

The LHSQ would like to hear from you. We are asking for your participation in a survey that will be conducted over the next few weeks. The survey is designed to get in touch with the needs of all our members, while providing some updated contact information. Copies of the survey are available at the desk, and at the AGM.

The Canadiana Development Committee

The Society has created a new committee with the mandate to assess the role and significance of the Canadiana and propose a collection development policy and mission for this invaluable part of our collection. We have two book committee members so far, Marianna O’Gallagher and Christine Veilleux.

AGM

The Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 7, 2004 at 7:00pm in the Library. Wine and cheese will be served following the meeting. All members are invited to attend and bring a friend.

Poetry Workshop – SPIRITS ABROAD

Mary Ellen Reisner is back with this year’s poetry workshop entitled “SPIRITS ABROAD”, dedicated to spirits in every sense of the word. The LHSQ invites you to join us Tuesdays from April 13 to May 11, 2004 in the Library, from 1:30pm to 3:30pm. The cost is \$30 for members and \$40 for non-members. The expertise of Mrs Reisner is not to be missed.

Gift Memberships

Looking for great gift to give a family member or friend? How about a one-year membership at the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec! Included with the membership are discounts on workshops, classes and guest speaker presentations, access to the library and its resources, invitations to the Annual General Meeting, volunteering opportunities and more!

Book Reading

The LHSQ is working hard to invite Canadian authors to our Library for Book Readings.

Book Reviews

Have you read a great book recently, or one you thought was rubbish? Write a review to be published in the Society Pages. Submissions should be given to Virginia Roe.

Canada Book Day (April 23)

The Lit & Hist will be holding its first ever Canada Book Day celebration on April 23, 2004. Special events will be taking place over the weekend. More details to be announced soon.

Free Parking on Sundays

A helpful hint for those who are looking for parking spots. On Sunday mornings until 2:00pm meter parking is free near St. Andrew's Church. Early Sunday afternoon is a good time to come and visit us. Please refer to the map on the back page for more details concerning transportation. Anyone who has a helpful parking tip please speak to Virginia so that we can put it in the next Society Pages. We are aware of your transportation concerns, and we are trying to find helpful solutions to make it less of an inconvenience for you.

Empress of Ireland

The LHSQ will be welcoming Derek Grout, author of the book *Empress of Ireland: The story of an Edwardian Liner*, to the Library to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the sinking of the ship. Mr. Grout will be giving a talk on the Empress, her history and importance to life in Quebec City. The event will be taking place on May 29. More details coming shortly.

Large Print

If you would like to receive a Large Print copy of the Society Pages please let Virginia or someone at the desk know.

PASS IT ON!

ONCE YOU ARE FINISHED WITH YOUR NEWSLETTER PASS IT ON TO A FRIEND! A GREAT WAY TO INVITE OTHERS TO SHARE IN THE LHSQ EXPERIENCE, AND AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF RECYCLING!

“The story of my Quebec Collection” by Mary Hilda Stephens

Mary Hilda Stephens' booklet entitled *“The Story of My Quebec Collection in the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, Morrin College, Quebec City”* was launched by her sister Marietta Freeland last year at the Annual General Meeting. At this year's AGM on April 7th in the Library we will have copies for sale. This abundantly illustrated booklet relates the story behind the many items of the “Collection” on permanent display in the Library!

Reading through the booklet is like being taken back to the early parts of the twentieth century. Each item has a story and a history of its own. – Mary Hilda Freeland Stephens, a lifelong member of the LHSQ, bequeathed her “Collection” to the Library in 1999. Copies of the booklet are available for the price of \$10.00. As Ms. Freeland has generously paid for the cost of printing the booklet, the money generated by the sales of the booklet will be donated to the LHSQ.

Transactions of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec
Reprinted writings and lectures from past members of the Lit & Hist.

Session of 1870-71

Paper I. – OPENING ADDRESS – “REVIEW OF THE PAST YEAR: MOVING ACCIDENTS BY FLOOD AND FIELD.”

By Dr. W. J. Anderson, President

THE EARTHQUAKE

Excerpt from pages 29 – 30

On Thursday, 20th October, I was sitting in my parlor in Berthelot Street, reading a biography of the Archbishop, which had appeared in the *Journal de Québec*. I had just reached the conclusion of the Archbishop's remarks to the students and was reading its concluding words "*Sic itur ad astar*," when I thought my Newfoundland dog had got into the room and was scratching himself below the table; but looking below, I found I was mistaken, and at once became sensible that it was an earthquake. I mechanically got up, and taking out my watch, and making allowance for a few seconds lost, I found that it was just 23 minutes past eleven: the force of the motion very much increased for about a minute, but I could not say that it was in any given direction. I cannot describe the motion better than in the language of the Scripture: "The earth trembled and shook." At 24 minutes past eleven, the motion was so violent that my heart sunk within me, as I thought the house was about falling; at this moment my daughter came into the room, and placing her hand on my shoulder, said, with accents and look of great terror: "Oh, father, I am dreadfully frightened." At that instant the force suddenly ceased, and I noted a slight tremulous motion for thirty seconds more, when everything was still. I held my watch in my hand for five minutes more, expecting a second shock, but there was no reception. Nothing was displaced in the room, though everything, especially articles on the sideboard, participated in the motion. My sister, who happened to be in the hall, felt the shock

very slightly. The servant, had we not talked of it, said she would have thought it was only a cab passing. The shock was felt very differently in different parts of the city. Some estimate its duration at 30 seconds, some at three or four minutes; some felt two shocks after a short intermission, some only one, protracted, but increasing and decreasing in power. Mr. Peebles says it was felt very severely at the Gas-Works, and that there were two shocks, with a distinct interval. I am not aware of anyone noting the time of duration by watch but myself. I asked Captain Ashe, who, I thought, would most likely have observed, and he told me that though he had an excellent opportunity of noting the time, having been the Observatory, yet he was so absorbed with the violence of the motion that he had not thought of it, but he was under the impression that it had lasted about three-quarters of a minute. Putting all accounts together, it was the most severe shock felt for two hundred years in Canada; and if the accounts received are reliable, it was attended with great destruction of property and serious loss of life in the neighbourhood of "les Eboulemens" and St. Paul's Bay.



