

THOMAS STORROW BROWN 1803-1888

This document is a transcript from five note books of hand written observations of old Montreal at the age of 84. It is mostly concerned with locations of streets; buildings; who built them and who lived in them with many anecdotes concerning the occupants and historical notes of the development of Montreal to which he came as a boy in 1818.

The notes in the possession of the Hudson Historical Society, came to light in 1987. It is not recorded who gave them to the Society which has donated them to McGill University.

He was in the Hardware trade, was involved with the 1837 uprising on the side of the Patriotes, fled to U.S.A., returned to Montreal in 1844 and was appointed to the Financial and Departmental Commission with reference to keeping Public Accounts of the Province.

He is described in the Dictionary of Canadian Biography, Vol. XI, 1881-1890, page 116.

F. J. Nobbs

President

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## Note Book One

Montreal 1818 - 1887

I was born at St. Andrews, N.B. 7 May 1803; Father Henry B. Brown, a son of Thomas Brown of Boston, born 1764. Thomas joined Royal Cause and left Boston with Gage at the evacuation march in 1776 for Halifax left with the Commission of a Militia company of foot with the rank of Captain doing duty of the North Battery in the town of Boston under the command of Brig. Mulberry Holmes Esq. in the regiment of militia where of John Erving Esq. Jr. is Colonel. I have commission as officer of Artillery (militia) signed by Gage. He had been a merchant and held several civil offices, was at Bunker Hill through his attack to R..... Because he became a married man the Government never gave him compensation.

He was compelled to open a school at Halifax. Among his scholars was Judge Pyke, died age 67. His only daughter married Dr. Thomas Emerson, sergeant during 1812 - to the 104th New Brunswick Regiment which was stationed for a time in Montreal. My Father having received a good education established himself as a Lawyer at St. Andrews, N.B., with the first settlers of the place about 1787 (23 years old) and 1791 married Rebecca Appleton - Daughter of Thomas, ship owner and Elizabeth Wentworth - daughter of John Wentworth, New Hampshire judge. Grand daughter of John Wentworth, Royal Governor of New Hampshire in the early part, neice of Sir Benning Wentworth who succeeded him and cousin of

Sir John Wentworth, last Royal Governor of New Hampshire and afterwards Governor of Nova Scotia.

They resided in St. Andrews until 1809. The births of three of their children are registered there ( I and two of my sisters).

Mary Ann	1796
Self	1803
Louise	1805

She is still living at 82. I am 84. Mary Ann died at 83. Thus we three made 249 years.

About 1809 relations leading to war between U.S. and England were becoming strained and there was embargo and non intercourse. Up to that time the people of both sides of St. Croix River which was the boundary line had lived as friends and neighbours. War would make them enemies. To avoid this awkward position, my father removed to Woodstock in Vermont to commence a sheep farm. The Merino sheep from Spain were just then introduced. Great fortunes were anticipated from introducing the breed and producing fine wool. These hopes lasted until 1815 when the war of 1812 ended and the glories of fine sheep wool vanished. My Father soon after returned to Boston and in 1817 we abandoned the sheep business and in the spring of 1818 (being 15 years old) I came to Montreal landing on 28th May. I was named from a cousin Thomas Wentworth Storrow. Son of a Captain in the British Army who had grown up to be a merchant in Boston and seeing a favourable opening in Montreal about 1808, came

here as a merchant. He was associated with other enterprises in a project for establishing the Commercial Loan of Montreal at Hochelaga. The Lachine Canal was to be constructed there and the streets for a town were laid out. (Deeds of the property that La Flamme and Gette bought some years ago (1875) from some old estate containing names and plan of the project). This was discontinued as the war came on and my cousin and others concerned left the Country. While here he built the store now No. 381-383 St. Paul Street, by Messrs Francis - W.E.B. This was built on the model of American Stores of the time. It was the first three storey building built on the public streets of Montreal, and the first built for a store only without dwellings above. The cellar was so constructed as to be waterproof at the time against floods. Some 30 years after when I met Mr. Storrow in the U.S. he asked me if it was still waterproof. The idea of a 3 storey building at the time was deemed hazardous, and the walls as may be seen, were of great thickness.

From early years it was always provided that I would come to Montreal to live with cousin Thomas, which hope was ended when he left here, but it so happened that a sheep speculator on a farm near his in Vermont had a sister married to Joseph T. Barnet, a hardware merchant of Montreal who in the fall of 1817 wanted a boy as an apprentice in his store, and so as this seemed to be carrying out my old destination I was sent here.

Riding by stage from Woodstock to Burlington I went in the evening on board the steamer Phoenix. Captain Sherman accompanied by

a friend of our family who introduced me to the charge of Col. Bouchette Surveyor who with some gent engaged in setting the boundary line between U.S.A. and Canada, were coming on to St. Johns which we reached next morning. (I think that was about the second steamer on the Lake). There was none before 1815. We came directly on by four horse coaches to La Prairie when one descended to Montreal in the old fashioned Canadian Bateau landing off the Customs House Square, directly below present Custom House when I proceeded to Mr. Barrets house, in Hospital Street, the front door opening directly into a large room where was seated a young lady about 20 years old. (Mrs. Cheney, mother of Mrs. H. Archibald of Frothing in US).

The house and garden behind must have occupied nearly an acre of ground. The house adjoined the present north British & Mercantile Ins. Co. at corner of St. Francois Xavier St. It was a high one storey house 50 feet or 60 feet front and a yard on the west adjoining the present property of E.E. Shelton (corner St. John) a garden behind with two apple trees extending 2/3 of the way to Notre Dame Street. Two excellent vaults underneath the house, the whole length, stone staircase to garret built outside. Garret paved with flat stones. Roof very high and steep, boards lapped on each which the sun would warp in the summer, but somehow came back and join in the damp weather and became waterproof. There were five windows and two doors on the front. They were guarded by large iron shutters. Rooms all on one floor were high and large divided by

partitions of masonry. There were large chimneys and it was said that it was in one of these rooms Mr. Walter the former owner had his ears cut off by some young officiers for imposing a penalty upon them as a magistrate. The Maitlands bought this house about 1830 and it was partly torn down and Maitland built a large warehouse in the rear adjoining the garden (between it and St. Francois Xavier St. It was the house and garden of Mde. Cote in which were a pair of plum trees. The house I think still stands at the rear part of the Express Office, and changed and added to. She was a rich widow with three daughters, one married to Jules Quesnel (Merchant) another to F.A. Larocque and the other to Mr. Laframboise who inherited large property from her. Cote St. was named for her where she had some property) old Post Office Corner Hospital and St. Francois Xavier (south corner).

The corner north was then an old two storey building occupied by the Bank of Canada and the yard of Robt. Armour the Cashier. (Robert Ramesay died lately, mother residing in Victoria Street was a daughter of Armour). Between bank and Mr. Barnet was a small yard and then a small warehouse - touching on Barnets store built over. Lot 35 ft. front by 75 ft. used by Armour as out building, gateway on Hospital Street.

West of Barnets was a yard and an old Canadian Hangard (or storehouse) and on the corner of St. John Street a dwelling house opening on St. John St., it being occupied later by a Frenchman who

had been a barber and had made money, and also by a man named Franchere (I think the famous Traveller.) Don't remember who occupied Notre Dame and St. John between Notre Dame and Hospital St. on St. John. I think there was a house afterwards occupied by a Mrs. O'Brien as a Boarding House. Her husband Bartley O'Brien had kept a tavern on S.W. corner of Hospital St. and St. John.

Going east, next to corner lot on Notre Dame was a rough stone two storey house - front 40 or 50 feet, occupied in 1854 by Mr. Bancroft of H. Gety and Co. and father of Dr. Bancroft and Grandfather of the misses Bancroft. The house of Harcher Gales & Co. was of very high standing but had got into commercial embarrassments though unknown in 1834 requiring every moment of Mr. Gales' attention. He was a merchant of the highest honour and abilities. He was appointed Legislative Councillor and went for a month to Quebec where he could not be spared an hour from the house. Coming back he found finances much disordered, took the trouble to heart and died shortly from over straining of the Brain. Bancroft a finished gentleman was not equal to the position forced upon him. I met him daily and he always asked "what do they say about our house?". He told me he could not sleep and every night had to get up and walk about the streets. In one week from death of Gales he was dead and buried. The other partner was Nathaniel Jones, a gentleman more fond of amusements than business, a jolly good fellow, popular with everybody. He was father to the first wife of one Judge Johnson and

nephew to Mr. Gales and brother of Mrs. Bancroft, Mr. Adam Handiside and Mrs. Coroner Jones (possibly cousins).

Then came some nameless people, small house and then an old fashioned one storey high roofed building which was soon afterward occupied by Sprague & Hutchison, autioneer who failed in 1825. Hutchison was a rough, stiff dull Yorkshireman who received large consignments of cloth from his brother in Yorkshire. Sprague had the character of being the greatest schemers, speculators and when they stopped to avoid getting into jail how they took to the water. Sprague was arrested at Plattsberg, New York where the law would only hold for an absconding debtor for 30 days. He was released. He was arrested in Middlebury, Vermont where there was no release for lifetime unless a man could affirm to certain oaths to which he objected and being a bachelor settled down to a very quiet life in jail, but just at that time a German named Fischer was confined for robbing a truck, though they made it an action of debt - the two got on very well together for several years, until a violent quarrel commenced between them and he swore that if Fischer did not get out of jail - he would do so and finally did so and went home to England. The estate went into the hands of Trustees. A large consignment from his brother was assigned to Mr. Lambe, the father of W.B. Lambe. The whole thing got messed up in law so that nobody knew whom they should pay and in 1836 about 4,000 Pounds was deposited with the Supreme Court and further trouble kept the thing in court



for nearly 30 years - when a Mr. Nairn who had married a niece of Mr. Hutchison came out with his wife determined to see the thing out. He made some settlement with Mr. Lambe, but Mr. Monk the Serving Pronothary while offering to pay the 4,000 Pounds refused to pay 1/4 century interest upon it while Mr. Nairn insisted upon the interest. Before the whole thing could be settled Monk died; Nairn from injuries from slipping down steps died also, and the house now occupied by Judge Cross - on the side of the mountain built by Monk with the adjoining ground and all that remains of capital & interest; a memorial of the failure of Sprague and Hutchinson in 1825 and near 1/2 century of litigation.

What I here relate was the current story of the time.

John Sprague had married a daughter of Jas. Campbell, a ship builder of Hochelaga - pretty girl, sister of the wife of Thomas Gibb the old brother of Beniah Gibb who built the art gallery. She lived with her ..... good ..... to an advanced age. It was said she wanted to marry Beniah Gibb, but Sprague was a dashing fellow and Gibb but a tailor's son who would not marry since.

East of Sprague & Hutchinson was a two storey building of rough stone, iron shutters and stone paved garret about 40 or 30 feet front on the rear of the present Exchange Bank building. I once saw the roof of this house burn off completely without injury to the rest of the building (about 1825) occupied by various persons, owned by Mr. Bresse of Chambly. Jas Young, Auctioneer, took it later.

The corner of Notre Dame & Francois Xavier was a one storey red painted wooden house also owned by Mr. Breese and occupied by James Brown of the printing office of the Gazette, opened on Francois Xavier St. end and narrow on Notre Dame. Mr. Bresse was a quiet retired trader at Chambly who owned these with the property at the N.E. Corner of ..... and St. Paul all of which he transferred to Mr. S. Rodier (Mayor) about 1830 for a Rente Viager. Bresse was a respectable uneducated man.

Jas Brown was concerned in erecting the first paper mill in the Province of St. Andrews (Argenteuil) about 1880. I think before the war when great numbers of Americans came in and settled near St. Andrews which town they founded in a manner with some Scotch people. Most of the farmers afterwards sold out and went to the west. Some in the village such as Wales connected with the paper mill, Blanchad Richards and others connected with trade etc. remained. St. Andrews remained a thriving money making village until the opening of Navigation and settlements higher up the river carried trade away from it. It was then ..... of the ..... people to get their supplies.

Brown was an Englishman, and for a time the Gazette was discontinued until it was bought out by Robt. Armour who had been cashier of the old Canada Bank (The date of Mr. Armour's purchase can be seen on the Gazette itself before 1830 I think). James Brown had

a son at one time Clerk in the Late City Bank and an assistant to Mr. Cassel Cashier of the City Bank who got into trouble with the Bank and left for Brooklyn.

Next house down St. Francois Xavier was a very shallow lot with a two storey rough stone and plaster building occupied by a spirit store by one Osborne. Then came Mrs. Cote's house - a facsimile of Mr. Barrets, only smaller standing 30 feet back from the street, high roof, paved garret, two high vaults underneath and gateway at north end leading to garden in rear. One door in front and five or six windows. Garden back to Barrats garden. I can say from experience that her green gages were very fine and the pears very fair. They hung over the wall within reach from our side and the temptation to know what they were was little more than what could be expected from a small boy.

This completes the Square.

Note Book Two

The course was from La Prairie to near Nun's Island coming down the mostly shallow part of the river to some sunken boulders known as Les Trois Roches and then straight down on this side of the river to the town. The steamboat channel was on the other side.

On approaching my first view of the town was a stretch of bank and beach in their natural state from the point where the canal comes out round in a curve down to the Barracks where the CPR Depot now is. Same elevation as at present; but then in a state of nature except a platform about the length of a ship directly opposite the present end of Youville St. then called Pointe aux Blondin, N.B. A narrow wharf or landing from a little above Port St. down to the end of present Custom House. There were two curves, one from the Windmill point to Pointe aux Blondin, the other from there to opposite Port St. then called Point a Calliene, from which there was a wooden revetment on each side of Francois Xavier St. down to opposite the present Custom House Square and wooden revetment between the square and St. .... St. On the extreme west where the canal now empties were three small windmills and there a common down to the Grey Nun St. the east side of which was vacant to near the end of Youville St. where there was a one storey cottage and garden in front with the platform above mentioned. It was called Nuns Cottage and I think it was occupied by Nuns. Anyhow, Munn's cottage was next to it, occupying the ground nearly to Port St. having the rear walls of the grey Nunnery on the north Side.

The first tow boat on the river, the Hercules of 100 horse power was built here 1822 under the direction of Captain Leo Brush who died here recently. (N.B. I don't know who Munn was. Henry Budden's mother I think was a Miss Munn I think connected to this man). (N.B. Captain who was a very handsome tall young man having the appearance of a Navy Lieutenant and who came from Ver..... in Vermont in the winter of 1817 when he went to Boucherville to learn French and he told me once that in the Spring of that year a choking of the ice somewhere about Longue Point from B. to Longueuil was flooded to a great depth doing great injury to the farmers and he did not remember such a thing having occurred since.

In the spring of 1817 on the opening of Navigation he took command of the steamer "Telegraph", a little thing I should say, not 100 feet long - navigating to Quebec. In 1819 he took command of the "Car of Commerce" - our best steamer of the time. When the "Hercules" was launched he took command of her in 1822 and subsequently commanded 2 or 3 other new steamers, till about 1834 (I think) or later. He purchased the Eagle Engine works on King St. in Griffintown from the ..... ward, who returned to the U.S. He continued those works to the time of his death and they are now in the hands of his son, George Brush, his family residing in a large house in Dorchester St. opposite the Windsor Hotel.

I remember that the "John Frances" was built in this yard several years afterwards and not many years ago she was among the arrivals at Quebec. East of the shipyard was a large wooden storehouse running through to near Foundling Street. On the corner of Port St. I think a two storey rough stone house belonging to Mr. Morrough a cooper. Years afterwards it was under the management of Hardouin Lyonnais who I think had married into Morrough's family. He obtained about \$2,000.00 a year rent for it from several tenants who paid enormous rates for small apartments as lodgings for immigrants. For the gateway above, he got \$400.00. It ran under the house. In the front he sold whiskey and in rear he stowed lodgers. There was great competition to get this place for stowing immigrants. (N.B. Inspector well considered it tip-top here)

On the east corner of Port St. was a large lot and one storey building used for Postash Inspection. The Inspector (I think) was named Jones, brother of John Jones of Quebec and Robert Jones who built the bridge across the Richilieu at St. Johns which still belongs to the family. One of the inspectors daughters married a commissariat officer named Price and was the mother of Mrs. Keith, Mrs. Hamilton and Mrs. Jackson Rae.

Next on corner of St. Francois Xavier St. was a stone house and then on the other corner, where Custom House now stands, was a rough 2 storey building covering nearly the same ground. There was a

small garden on the east side and the principal portion was occupied by the Potash Inspection store of Mr. George Holt. This building had been erected at what was a great expense at the time as it had to be built up on the north side from the creek and ruined the builder, the eldest son of Pierre Barthalet and brother of Mr. Oliver Barthalet, so well remembered for his public charities. He left for U.S. on his failure and never returned. It had been built as a large storehouse, divided into 3 or 4 stores located at the wedge of Pte. a Calliere.

The late Mr. Louis Boyer told me that the first money he ever earned was in carrying stone on a brancord (horse litter) for the erection of this building. Mr. Boyer was then a day labourer. Mr. Boyer went into the service of Thomas Thane, Manager of the N.W. Co., who sent him to school and aided him in commencing a fish business. I have seen him in his Sabots in winter time standing all day out of doors in the market place with a board across two barrels for a counter, a pair of time scales and a set of weights. Joseph Vallé kept a little shop directly behind where he stood on the East side of then Market Square, where he sold durable items and maple sugar and various small things required by the habitants by which he had acquired considerable property and was called rich. He took Boyer into partnership. Thane favoured them and furnished all the buffalo robes they could sell until they became the sole agents of the same which was continued with the Hudson's Bay Company and their business became large by dealing in provisions. Mr. Boyer was a highly respectable merchant and left a large fortune to his family.

Directly opposite the Market Square about 200 ft. distance was a small island, now Island Wharf. A road merely wide enough for a cart to pass through ran from the beach to the Market Square with low main buildings on each side occupied as huckster's shops. Then east of this lane was a two storey rough stone house belonging to the Molsons; then the rear of two taverns fronting on Capitol Street. The eastward one of these two was Clamp's Coffee House, a wretched two storey building but in great favor with old Northwesterners when they came into town, who patronized it for the sake of old rememberances, when it had been considered, like many wretched old houses in London as the most comfortable hostelry. The space between this house and the river street was planked over and made a pleasant afternoon gallery.

Then came a large rough stone store on corner of St. Joseph (now St. Sulpice Street) belonging to an American named Gordon who had made some money in the Grocery business during the war. He was the butt of a story. At the close of the war, determined to get food at first hand he went to England and having some ten or twenty chests of tea on his lists which he thought an immense quantity he found his way to the headquarters of the East India Co. whose tea business was managed through appointed agents. "I have come to buy some tea" said Gordon to the pompous official - "We do not know you" was the reply. - "I dont think that makes any difference" said Gordon - "I've got the money to pay for it!



But he had to retire and was told by his friends that he was in luck for not being kicked downstairs for his presumption in presenting himself to the high mightynesses without an introduction. He was afterwards quizzed about this.

The lot on east corner of St. Sulpice Street was vacant and next to it a yard with a regular pile of stones built into a storehouse, both the first and second stories being vaulted - like bomb proof. A lane in rear ran to St. Sulpice St. It was occupied by David and Andrew Handyside and Alan Vass (tip top people) - afterwards known as a merchant here was a rough Scotch boy in Corduroys with them. They were commission merchants and failed soon after paying 1 Shilling and 9 Pence on the Pound. Some years after there was an election Bagg and Tracey. HB Smith so long known here as a crockery merchant, who had just voted for Tracey met David Hamoymah with some others in the street and in conversation said that no respectable man had voted for Tracey. "What do you call a respectable man?" said Smith. Handyman described what he considered a respectable man, but before the breath was fairly out of his mouth, Smith interpolated with emphasis, "and who pay their debts!" alluding to Handyman's failure. Afterwards they built a distillery at Rouisseau and a large cottage. A brother named Robert, who came out to join them was found there one morning at the bottom of a well. Supposed suicide. Then again there was another failure and they built another distillery a little below

Molsons, which soon fell into the hands of the Molsons - and the framing of the establishment is still standing nearly opposite the jail (west). David H. died soon after and Adam H. lived to an old age as Secretary to the Bruce Mining Co. in which he was succeeded by his son Jones H. David had married Miss Adams (sister of Mrs. H. Gates) from Burlington.

Adjoining this property on the east was the yard of properties on St. Paul St. one of them being the property of Thos. Torrance and celebrated lately in our courts in the suit of Burland against Judah (who had to go to jail over it), then came the property of John Shuter (who had made a fortune and retired to England) on the rear of which an American named Thayer who had bought the property and had built a large brick warehouse which remained till lately. Then came the rear of another property on St. Paul - now all built over by the property of Thibeau Dean & Co. and then St. Dizier Lane.

Note Book Three

Corner of Dizier Lane on River Front.

Directly under the last said building of Thibeau Deans there was an underground passage high enough for a person to walk through which had been cut off by St. Paul St. on one end and Water St. on the other and when preparing for putting down the steps in front of the Parish Church the commencement of a similar passage was found leading eastwards till cut off by St. Sulpice St. It was supposed these indicated a Sally Port or passage from Place d'Armes passing under the Hotel Dieu Garden to the river, as a means for the people and garrison if too hard pressed in the early days by Indians to escape or succour if brought to them. I am not aware if this was verified when the foundations of the buildings now occupying that garden were excavated.

At the east side of St. Dizier was a yard with store on St. Paul St. and next was the rough back store; next was a warehouse of Gerard-Gilles and Co. a well built stone building running through from Street to Street and the only one that could be so described at that time. (There were two fronts). St. Jean Baptiste Street had not been cut through from St. Paul St. and there were only walls of yards and gateways down as far as the present Jacques Cartier Square or an occasional out building connected with the buildings on St. Paul St. with the exception of one somewhat large occupied as a

hat manufactory by Jacob Hall, and near the entrance to the Square a rough building (I believe still standing) occupied as a raftman's tavern.

Crossing the entrance to the square was a fish market, a low capacious structure of brick (I think) and then it was gateways in rear of the premises of Joseph Roy and Young on St. Paul St. and then the dwelling of Mr. Gordon, of the house of Maitland, Gordon and Auldfor and Sharpe's delivery stables in rear of the mansion house.

Crossing Bonsecours Street were ancient uncouth buildings in the rear of Bonsecours Church. I think occasioned for some ecclesiastical purpose, schools etc. then a building containing a steam engine which drove a flour mill and pumped the water of the new Water Works from the river to the Citadel Hill directly west, then some vacant ground and a long one storey Bakery who contracted for bread for the Garrison. The first baker there was Johnson, and the terms were that for the Government flour (240 lbs.) the contractor returned 60 loaves of 4 pounds each with a payment stipulated for the surplus.

About this time (it may have been 1819) there was a great shove of ice near Mansion house crushing Sharpe's stables but I do not remember that ice has ever piled there since. Sharpe was a very active man and a good citizen, who had served in the Peninsular war

as Trumpeter to a Dragoon Regiment. One of his sons was an officer in the Canadians Rifles - left a very respectable family. The only other great shove I remember occurred on the 26th April 1836 when it filled up St. Francois Xavier St. along the whole front of the present Customs house up to the height of a three storey building. It was a perfect mountain. I have a piece of wood I chipped off the spout of the building now known as Joe Beefs (I think the same house still) while passing over the ice mountain. This shove continued as far as Youville St. forcing in the front of some three storey stores and completely crushing a one storey stone dwelling house to a great depth and the whole family (so suddenly did it come) were found crushed in their seats at table. This house was about 100 feet east of the present St. Peter St. Past the Barrack Street which ran then as now.

On the east corner of Barrack Street was a large stone house connected with the Barracks whose main gate and guardhouse opened at the end of it, then a high wall continued to the end of the Barracks. From this point to the Molson's Brewery, there was the natural beach with the road running over a high bank. Two or three streets running up to St. Mary Street were occupied by wretched houses usually occupied by the worst portion of the people (Regular Vagabonds), then there was a field and then a wharf in rear of the houses now standing, one then occupied by Judge Reid and the other by William Molson. A terrace of brick houses, since removed I believe

for the CPR were afterwards built in rear of Molson's Brewery which was some distance below William Molson's house. Molson's family lived at the Brewery.

Where the India Rubber factory is was an old shipyard where several vessels were built by James Millar in my time, and lower down, between that and the present cotton mill there were two others. There were excavations from the line of St. Mary's Street down to the river wide enough for the work in constructing a ship with a decline to make launching easy. James E. Campbell's house was opposite the end of the lowest one. At the lower end of where the factory now stands was a square two storey tavern from which the ferry to Longueuil started. It belonged to Oliver Waite and had several occupants from time to time till it was converted into a distillery by Mr. Savageau near thirty years ago. Waite's family I think are still a respectable family here. He was an enterprising public spirited man who for a time controlled the ferry which employed a horse boat driven by a dozen horses who went round and round in a circle. One of his daughters married Mr. Logan Fuller (not a man of fashion) at the house of Wm. Smith & Co. who built the residence occupied till his death by the late Wm. Darling on the opposite side of the road. The port of Montreal may be said to have ended here.

St. Marys St. to Dalhousie Square

Between Molsons Brewery and Waites on the North side of the road were a few straggling farm houses connected with the lands running back to the ridge which would now be the continuation of Sherbrook St., the whole of which from Bleury Street was known as Cote a Barron.

One of these was occupied by a former of the old Scotch type named Mr. Conachie of which it was related being on a jury at a murder trial where two Scotchmen working on Logans farm were charged with the murder of a Canadian with whom they had an altercation. As the jury retired to their room the foreman said "the case is plain! We have only to bring in a verdict of Guilty" when Mr. Connachie exclaimed "You're clean off your head Mr. Foreman for so long as God gives me breath o life you shall never have my voice to hang a Scotsman for killing a Canadian" and his stubbornness saved the two men.

Westward from this, about three acres below Papineau road was the farm house of Mr. Ferguson whose daughter married Andrew Shaw and was the mother of Mrs. Dr. Wheeler and Mrs. Hanny Chapman who has resided for some years in Nice. As evidence that land speculation does not come up to the expectation of speculators I may mention that this farm running up to Cote a Barron through which Viau Street now

runs, was disposed of by "Tirage au Sont" more than fifty years ago. The house had been fitted up as a handsome residence by Mr. Shaw was a fine prize for the winner, but all the fine building lots looked so well on the plan with the exception of a farm on the lower end continued of small market value.

West of this on the north side opposite the Brewery, Sir John Johnson erected in 1816 a brick residence with two tiers of galleries all around, which after his death in 1830 was occupied by his daughter a widow Mrs. Major Bowes, and his son the owner of the Seignory of Argenteuil. When troops were here it was last used as a Military Hospital and now belongs to the Molsons.

The Molson's Brewery, the first established by Mr. John Molson, more than 100 years ago, (about 1780) who came from Boston in England and was one of the very few who brought money with him, being satisfied of the success of his beginning he wrote for and obtained more and continued a prosperous and honorable career to a very old age leaving to his family a very rich inheritance. I have been told that his family had a letter written by him to the custodian of his money in England for a sum required to buy a farm on which he could grow barley as the Canadians at that time were not disposed to grow it. He built the first Steamboat on the river called the "Accomodation" in 1810 and with his son John were largely in the steamboat line for more than 40 years, building in succession



after the "Accomodation" the "Swiftsure" which was burned; the "Marlsham," the "Lady Sherbrooke", the "New Swiftsure", the "St. Lawrence", the "John Molson", the "John Bull", the "Waterloo", and the "Queen". I may not have named them all.

There were three sons, Thomas who established himself in the brewery business at Kingston and Port Hope, and after his Father's death returned to Montreal to conduct the old Brewery of the Family. He left a large family. John Henry, John Thomas, Marie, Mrs. Sprague, Mrs. Clarke or Clerc. William and John continued with the father, the former attending to the Brewery and the latter to the Steamboats. William left two daughters, one married to Mr. D. McPherson, the other to her cousin John now residing in Belmont House, who was son of John who left four other sons all in good circumstances.

St. Mary's Street from this point to Dalhousie Square may be said to have been occupied by small taverns, carriage shops and people in small lines of business. The properties of William Molson and Judge Reid extending from St. Mary's Street to the river with large stone houses on them were as they are now. Judge Reid was one of the most dignified of men. Louis XIV could not have exceeded him. His form was compact and solid, dressed with scrupulous neatness he walked from his house to the Court House with a very steady step, his eyes turning neither to the right or left and seldom recognizing

any person on the street. A merchant in Montreal who had frequent business before the court, while he was treated with the utmost urbanity he was never recognized by the Judge upon the street. It so happened one day that being both on a steamboat for Quebec they were detained for a few hours at Sorel while the passengers went ashore. When the Judge with the greatest politeness said to the merchant, "As we are acquainted here I should like to take a walk with you" and accordingly they strolled about with the greatest familiarity. At dinner the Judge politely called the gentleman to take wine and continued very cordially during the rest of the way which in those days was rather slow. Some days afterwards they returned to Montreal, the merchant saw the Judge approaching on the sidewalk and prepared to give him a warm greeting, but the stately judge passed straight on without even giving him a look. It was fun to hear the gentleman tell this storey, for at this point he was boiling with rage and piled upon the Judge every approbrius word he could.

I remember no other house of note excepting one (occupied by Gorrie Brewery behind it) occupied by Mr. Stewart (after Chief Justice Sir James - Attorney General) standing back from the road about 100 yards from the Dalhousie Square on the South side at the top of a little flat - and Col. Buser, commanding the 37th Regt. then in garrison here occupied what we should not consider a very mean dwelling on the north side near the Square. A few streets ran out a short distance on each side but I do not recollect that any crossed

what is now Craig St. except Commission now called some other name which extended to some gardens near the line of Dorchester. On the east side of Commission Street at the end was a house left by a German as a poor house and on the opposite side was the house and garden of J. R. Leprohan. He was uncle to our Dr. Leprohan and I think he was retired from business. A little below the present cotton factory there was a plain black cross by the road side, much as are seen all over the country. The district from that to the Molsons was known by no other name than "The Cross". We spoke of ships built at "the Cross" on "going down to the Cross" or "landing at the Cross".

Opposite the western wall of the present jail yard there was a very good stone house belonging I think to a family named Bruyere on La Bruerre of whom I only remember two fine young women, one married Toussant Pothier and was the mother of the late Geo. Desbarats, the other married a Mr. Sutherland, a lawyer who held a duel with Dr. Caldwell. Mr. Sutherland was wounded in the foot and lamed for life. Caldwell was an army Surgeon, who settling here was for a number of years one of our best physicians. He married one of the Misses Sweeney, sister of the first husband Lady Rose, who in 1837 shot dead in a duel Major Ward of the 1st Royal Regt.

The property called "Bellerive" and now belonging to the CPR Company was then held by Mr. John Richardson or

Forsythe Richardson and I believe that there is still at the east end of it two small buildings built for storehouses by the firm where they could land goods from vessels that were there long detained at the foot of the Current. These two houses are where the Longueuil ferries used to stop some years past.

When the plan of the Lachine Canal was under discussion in 1820 the point was whether it should terminate where it now does or descend down Craig Street to "The Cross". Mr. Richardson was strongly in favour of the latter, but being a very proud man and charged with advocating it to increase the value of his small property he went with the opposite party and as a Commissioner decided on the present termination. This little matter made a great change in what Montreal might have been, for I may say from the tanneries downwards the land was a marsh of small value, wide enough for the Canal and basins and sufficient in space for all the vessels coming to our harbour. Anyone who can imagine Montreal with this succession of Canal and docks from Hochalega to the Tanneries, bridged at intervals from the front of the City to Lajou Street may think that few cities in the world have equal water conveniences for commerce.

Dalhousie Square

What is now Dominion Square was then vacant ground used for Military purposes. The city had formerly 'Eastern Gate' near the point where old St. Mary Street comes into the square from which a street ran diagonally between the Military Property and the Barracks, (that diagonal street connected St. Paul with St. Mary's) down to Barrack Street where St. Paul Street proper then began. On the south of this road were the Barracks which were originally built by the French, two long substantial two storey stone buildings with the Barrack guard room down to the river in which were storehouses and other buildings required for the garrisons.

There was then an entrance between the buildings which was built up afterwards. Being on a slope there was a high basement and gallery. On the south side the ground was sufficiently level to place a Regiment in line, but after this it sloped too much towards the river for maneuvering. The whole buildings and walls occupied nearly all the ground now occupied by the CPR Station, but there was a space on the east end outside, on which Barracks for Artillery and horses were afterwards built but they were within the present station limits. On the north side of the diagonal street where Notre Dame Street lately joined St. Mary's, there was a large lumber yard (now Dominion Square) used by the Military.

Commencing a few yards east of what is now Hospital Notre Dame - was the Citadel Hill, an artificial mound about fifty feet high with a block house on the top, and half way down on the west side was a wooden structure built as a reservoir for the new water works. The Eastern half of this mound had been removed in 1813 to fill up the Champ de Mars to its present level, which left what is now Dalhousie Square in the state above mentioned. The mound at Dalhousie Square was 50 feet high. Side steps. It must have been 75 at the base across. The western half of the old Citadel hill was removed in 1819 (I think) which made way for the extension of Notre Dame Street to what then constituted the Square. I presume the earth was used to fill up St. Louis Street. The iron pipes for the new Water Works constructed by John and Thomas Porteous were then being laid down and two three-storey buildings of cut stone with a total front of about 60 feet were built opposite Notre Dame Hospital, the two lower stories to be used as dwellings, and the third as a lead lined tank for the Water Works, the supply being pumped up from the river by the engine before mentioned on the river bank. This remained our only water tank till the Works were sold to the Corporation a little more than 40 years ago, though they, having been for about a dozen years in the possession of the heirs of David David, managed by his nephew Moses Hayes - with Ballantine his brother-in-Law.

As an evidence that mankind knew something of (Boodhism) [SIC] in olden times and was just as naughty as they are today I may mention that Mr. Hayes told me that in carrying through the negotiations for the sale he found it agreeable to present a handsome douceur (gift) to a leading City Alderman. Mr. Hayes built a handsome mansion on Dalhousie Square, now belonging to Mr. Genereux. About 1850 he built a theatre and hotel on the west side of the square which were burnt at the great fire.

In 1818 there were no buildings I think on Champ de Mars Street. In St. Louis Street there were some old fashioned houses, one of them occupied by Mr. Gauvin, master carpenter or Chief of Construction to the Royal Engineers, (North side) father of Mrs. John Ustill, and there was a very gentlemanly Major Du Compire formerly of the French Army, (south side opposite Gauvin). I remember the gentleman very well. He liked portrait painting and was a very amusing companion. About the time the new Parish Church was roofed it was proposed to put up iron crosses at each end, but as the cross on the old Steeple had been struck by lightning and knocked down, the Major recommended they should be made of wood and gilded, you can then tell the people they are of gold and not of iron and I for one will certainly not go up to see whether you tell the truth.

About this time our principal stone mason, a Mr. Chevalier, a very superior man built a block of houses on the north side of

St. Louis Street of rough stone, long known as the Seven Galleries - towards the eastern end (Parthenais Street). Westward from Mr. Gauvin's was a long low house built of logs. I remember no house on the east side of Bonsecour Street from St. Louis to St. Paul except a very poor building a little south of Notre Dame Street occupied by Jacques Viger, our first Mayor, and afterwards known as "Chevalier Viger" the Antiquarian. Notre Dame Street from Bonsecour to Dalhousie remained mostly vacant for some years after the removal of the hill. At the west end of 'Seven Galleries' a street ran down towards Craig which I think was crossed by one called Parthenais where the Protestant Orphan Asylum now is. St. Catherine Street was first established.



Note Book Four

St. Paul Street from the Barracks

Opposite to the Barracks and westwards to Bonsecours Street the north side was occupied by very old and ill constructed buildings. There were low taverns, mechanics shops, one of the blacksmith establishments of a Mr. Wragg, Uncle to T.B. Wragg, a hardware merchant long known in Montreal for his social qualities, especially as the best whist player of the City. John White, afterwards a hardware merchant, who ended his days as collector on the Lachine Canal might then be seen working at a bench as a tinsmith. The buildings nearest the Barracks were smaller, and occupied as drinking places and resorts for the soldiers. Richard White's father was a shoemaker. Thomas Workman I think commenced life in this hardware store, but soon went into the firm of J. J. Frotheringham where his brother William was then employed. With all respect for Her Majesty's land forces in Canada, and acknowledgement of the universally good and orderly conduct of the soldiery, it must be admitted that the people who occupied the houses east and west of the Barracks with whom the soldiers associated were the very scum of society and gave the neighbourhood a very disreputable reputation. (To Woodyard street and Lane).

These buildings being among the oldest in the city were the character common to the period of their erection in other parts, rubble stone, plastered with no regard to architecture, low stories, the lowest usually vaulted, very small windows and from 20 to 30 feet deep, and covered with shingles. In the centre of the town even the old houses were superior, all had iron shutters as a protection against fire. One storey houses in a model of farmhouses, that is low walls and very high roofs were plentiful in the best streets. The old ones of two stories were like those near the barracks. The ceilings and most of the partitions were of wood and the walls roughly plastered with a mason's trowel. Lathes when used were split hoop poles, an inch or two in diameter, which when nailed with the round side inwards gave a good hold to the mortar, but plastering laid on with a stone trowel was very rough. All seemed to have been built without a plan. Four walls were put up and covered, and the division into rooms made just as chance would have it. The old houses built of logs had about disappeared. This may pass as a general description of all houses built up to the end of the last century, after which a great improvement commenced, rough hammered stone was substituted for rubble, then followed hammer dressed on "Boucheville" style, the cutting growing finer from year to year till it reached Ashlar or that which is now in common use for what we term cut stone.

The south side of St. Paul from the Barracks to Bonsecours, was vacant on the street, but between it and the river was a collection of small houses, like the nucleus of a village which it remained till lately in the old condition, always populated but never known by whom. Immediately west of Bonsecours Church where the east end of Market now comes to Bonsecours was the Mansion House Hotel which had been purchased by the Molsons from John Johnson and converted into a hotel by some additions and was really a very respectable establishment conducted by an English man named Martineau, but Mrs. Dyde, mother of our late and well known respected Colonel appeared to be the real proprietor or directing genius. This was burnt a little later when the Masonic Hall was erected on the same ground. This was really a fine building, a recessed centre with two three-storey wings running far back towards the river. This again was burned about 1828. It occurred thus wise Captain Back had come out to proceed to the north west, down the great Fish River to the ocean in search of Captain Franklin. A great dinner was given for him and the staircase and passages ornamented with spruce trees and to take advantage of the decorations a great ball was got up some nights after. In the meantime stove heat was drying the spruce to tinder, and before half the company got into the ballroom it ignited and blew up like gun powder. Fortunately ladders were quickly on hand and those in the ball room escaped with loss to none.

West of this, a well constructed theatre was erected. Pit, two tiers of boxes and gallery for "the gods"; It was opened by Fred Brown and wife, a sister of Charles Kemble (I think) an excellent woman and actress but horribly plain, with a company counting in all about 70, which naturally broke down by its own weight at the first season. I have seen Fannie Kemble in this house when it was so filled that people had to sit on the stage and I have one recollection of the great Edward Keen, which I have never seen in print. When he visited in 1827 the theatre was closed, but with the aid of Mrs. Barnes, an excellent actress who happened to be here, members of a circus company who were acting melo-drama, we patched up a team and induced Keen to give four performances, and though in his last years probably never acted better. His dignity in Othello, though painted perfectly black was Transcendant: In the last night he took the part of Daggerwood in a farce where a young man, wishing for an engagement at a theatre, shows his parts, one being standing on his head. Keen went through all to everyones astonishment, seized to the sides of chair, then up his legs and held himself steadily faced on the seat. As he lowered himself somebody among the "gods" cried out "another tumbler Keen", which he being very drunk though he rushed out of sight. Not returning the audience grew restive for nearly an hour and there was a danger of riot or demolition of the theatre, when after a great search he was found in bed at the Masonic Hall and induced to come back to the theatre, where advancing to the foot lights he commenced a very good speach in thanking audience for

the kindness for him and his high respect for them, but added he, as for that man among the 'gods' who called for the other tumbler I dispise him. In the general roar of laughter that followed this he escaped and no more was seen of him. Anyone who can imagine one of the greatest and most renowned actors the world has ever seen in such a scene may appreciate his wonderment.

Adjoining this was the dwelling house with garden in rear of George Gordon, of the house of Gordon, ....., and Co. of whom I remember nothing and suppose left here on the failure of the firm. The house passed into the possession of Dr. Selby, whose family resided there for some time. Then a low one storey building, then three or four respectable rough stone stores and dwellings ending at the fish market, one of these being the residence of that solid citizen and staunch patriot Joseph Roy, father of the present City Attorney and one by Mr. Birks as a grocery store. His family are still here.

Note Book Five

At the north east corner of Jacques Cartier Square, then only known as "New Market" was a very old building which I believe still stands, built in the last Century and in my time always belonged to the Government. Immediately below on the south side was a large double cut stone modern building (this house formed part of the property transferred by the DesRivieres to the McGill College) of Frs. DesRivieres and from there to St. Paul the buildings were of very mean order, occupied as taverns for the clients of the market people, but bringing high rents and considered of high value till the creation of the Bonsecours Market, when it fell to a low estimate which I remember from the circumstance that the Rev. Gilbert Miller who resided in Upper Canada (Pictou) came down and told me that unable to obtain rents, he had come to sell but could find no buyer. The sister of the first Miller lived in a very nice way on St. Antoine Streets for many years (Aunt of David).

St. Paul Street

The buildings around the corner on St. Paul Street were pretty much of the same style and occupied for the same purposes. They were leased as usual to several small people. My recollection in that Rasco's hotel, still standing, was built on the lot directly behind the de Ramzay property. N.B. Rosco's hotel had a long front

on St. Paul Street, but was a shallow building and cramped by the dining room built in rear where there was not sufficient room because it only occupied the depth of the former small properties that were bounded by the Government land in rear.

On the west corner of Claude Street was a two storey rubble-plaster building used as a tavern. On the east corner a common one storey building, and then what had been considered a fine residence, occupied by my cousin Thomas Storrow when he resided here, and which belonged to Col. McKay. It had been built upon the ground of Frenchidlear of one storey with a very high basement - the door at one end opening into a small vestibule, and then a succession of large rooms, opening into one another, without passages and with doors opening into the bedrooms. The garret was an immense space un-occupied. East of McKays were small buildings belonging to General Christie's estate, part were removed to build Trinity Church, and on the corner of Bonsecours Street, William Walker, one of our first and most distinguished Lawyers, and Rossiter, his brother-in-law built two fine three storey dwelling houses.

From the corner of St. Paul to Notre Dame on Bonsecours there was only a long two storey building which became the property of L.J. Paperman, and was fitted up by him into a very respectable residence and directly opposite the house of Georges Viger. On Notre Dame at the corner there were two or three very mean buildings

afterwards demolished and built upon by Mr. George Cartier, then vacant ground upon which Mr. Comte built a block of cut stone buildings about 40 years ago. Then came the residence of John Forsythe, now a carriage factory, a rough two storey double dwelling, rough high basement and any number of small windows of J. F. of Forsythe Richardson & Co. Next on the corner of Claude was the residence of Mr. Bleakly, a one storey rubble plastered building. On the opposite corner of Claude was the residence of Isaac Winslow Clarke, an old resident and Chief Commissariat officer, our local County General. It was rubble and plaster, small windows, two stories, and I should think the rooms were not over 8 feet high. Part of this house was pulled down to widen Claude Street and the other wall still stands as the wall of the Laval Garden. Mr. Clarke was from Boston, son of the merchant whose tea was thrown over board in 1767 and must have come here at the close of the rebellion as the title to his property states 1784. He was a brother-in-law to Copley the painter and uncle to Lord Lynderhurst (Copley married his sister) through whose influence C.R. Ogden, our Attorney General in 1837, who had married one of his daughters became Judge or Chief ruler of the Isle of Man. The other daughter married Mr. Coffin, Sheriff of Montreal who still resides here.

From here to Jacques Cartier Square the whole ground was occupied by the de Ramesay Chateau, since known as the Government House and the wretched buildings that extended to the corner.



Claude Street

I remember nothing on Claude Street except an old building near St. Paul St. on the east side (375-377) basement used as a blacksmith shop and another opposite of a dilapidated character.

Jacques Cartier Square

The market, on which is now facing J.C. Square and called the "New Market" was a wooden shed, roof sloping each way, commencing 30 - 50 feet from St. Paul Street running up the centre of the Square to within about 100 feet from Nelson's monument. There ran through the centre from one end to the other, a broad passageway, on each side of which were broad tables on which the butchers displayed their meat, with hooks on the frame work from which meats were suspended. There were doors on each side at frequent intervals and between them hinged shutters which opened in the day time and hooked to the outer roof.

The whole market was as light as out of doors. These shutters dropped and fastened inside made the whole closed and safe for the night. Outside this part, which might be opened or closed the roof projected perhaps a dozen feet covering benches and tables along the entire length which were occupied by dealers in poultry and vegetables and hucksters generally. Then outside again on both sides

ran a paved sidewalk of good breadth up to which country carts battled for the sale of produce of all descriptions. Grain and other farm produce was also sold on the space between the monument and the end of the building. This structure was new in 1817 and neither the country or town people had got habituated to it, so much so that all crowded to the old market at the Custom House which was a smaller building built on precisely the same principles. The jam here became so great that constables were constantly on market days drawing the country people from the old market to the new. English butchers having the best, our towns had usually the best meat, that is, what we call stall-fed, while the Canadian butchers sold principally the common grass fed meat. The best fresh butter was furnished by the scotch farmers of the neighbourhood. The exhibition of garden produce was small. Poultry, eggs and vegetables generally were brought in by the Canadians from the Country. Among the butchers there was one named Jeffrey who took up lands in Rawdon and then being Colonel became the head of the settlement.

Another of note was Mr. Masterman, I think father of the present Masterman and with whom Richard Outhet, so long known at the St. Ann's Market was a boy apprentice. I do not remember the name of the Clerk of the market. I have a jumbled memory of names but do recollect dates of their occupation. The position of the Clark of the market who had control of everything tending to order and proper

arrangements for the convenience of all was always filled by highly respectable men ranking with Chief of Police.

Nelson's monument was then quite new and in good condition. The bas relief in imitation stone on the four sides of the pedestal were really perfect and elegant. I think the cannon are two of those brought from Sevastopol of which there were several.

The north west corner building and the one next to it I think are the same that were then there and the corner of St. Vincent was also a mean building. Between the two buildings was the watch making establishment of Mr. Keurgyn under the management of Mr. Haldeman and who became a hardware merchant in St. Paul Street leaving the business to his sons. He married a Miss Wurtele who died lately and built upon her property at the north east corner of St. Lawrence and St. Catherine Streets the large stone building which still stands. Keurgyn turned this building or the one next to it into a grocery store which he put in charge of Mr. Jas Ferrier, then a young man from Scotland. In a very short time Mr. Ferrier left him to establish here about 1823 a grocery store on his own at I think the second lot west from St. Vincent Street. I am a little confused about the exact position of those two shops and I might mention here that the celebrated contrevemt-barrie in which J.L. Boudry commenced his fortune was about half-way between the Square and St. Vincent North about 1832.

From the corner of St. Vincent the first building was I think a two storey of rough stone but I forget whether dwelling or shop. Then came the place afterwards taken by Mr. Ferrier, then a small building torn down by J.C. Grant, a leading Lawyer to put up a brick building which was transferred to J. J. Day and now rebuilt.

Westwards was a large two storey building rubble and plaster, occupied by I do not recollect whom, which afterwards became Orr's Hotel, commonly called the "war office" from being the rendezvous of the most determined opponents of the Canadian movement of 1837. I cannot locate the occupants of the house on this line, but I remember that one was afterwards the printing office of "l'ami du Peuple" for which John Fisher, a Scotch merchant was said to furnish the money and P.E. LeClaire, one of the Court House officials was the principal mover. By the Canadians it was named "l'Ami du feu", being virulent against the Canadians. It was an English paper published in French. Rainbaud was an editor for some time. Following Orr's hotel came the stables of the Hon. John Richadson, and then his dwelling house which made the corner of St. Gabriel Street, a long low rough stone two storey dwelling with any number of small windows. Mr. Ferrier who made a fortune more repeatedly than anyone ever did in this city bought all the property from St. Vincent Street to St. Gabriel except the brick building of Mr. Grant before he retired from mercantile business

which was about a dozen years from his commencement. He is still alive in his 87th year to enjoy the revenue.

Going round the corner down St. Gabriel Street you come to the offices of Forsythe Richardson and Company which was jammed very close to the house, with entrance to it through the gateway to the yard from St. Gabriel Street and east of this was wine and spirit vaults. Directly opposite the gate, in the middle of the yard was a large rough stone structure, still standing which had probably been built in 1793 (Ferriers anecdote). On these premises was conducted the entire business of Forsyth Richardson & Company. The yard was surrounded by a high stone wall through which the gateway opened. The houses between this and St. Therese Street were private dwellings. I do not remember who occupied them but I recollect Col. Philpot of the Royal Engineers occupied the lower one in 1828.

On the north side of St. Therese Street there was a rough stone house of the North West Co., then a small dwelling opposite Vaudreuil Street a two storey rough stone house occupied afterwards by one Robitaille as a boarding house. The small two storey rough house between Robitaille's and the corner was sometimes used as a boarding house and sometimes as offices and Mr. Day, afterwards Judge and Chancellor of the McGill University had his first office here about 1828, and afterwards the second J. M. Jobin, Notary, occupied these offices. On the corner of St. Vincent was a house of the

shabby order where I think resided at the time Mrs. Nolan, who removed to a large property on St. Catherine Street and afterwards to a farm back of the mountain. Going up St. Vincent next was a vacant ground, and then a property of Julien Denault (brother of Mrs. Nolan). and father of Mrs. Fabre and Mde Levesque and two sons who were distinguished in Canadian Politics - Ovide, the finest young man that Canada ever produced who was killed at St. Denis, and Louis who has left many descendents. Mr. Fabre had his book store in this house which was a general rendezvous for the country priest with whom he was deservedly in great favour.

Next came the rear building and yard of Mr. Ferrier's lot. On the South side of St. Therese, coming to Vaudreuil Street I only remember one small house on the west corner I think was a continuation of the North West Co.'s Stores.

The Square between Ste. Therese and Vaudreuil had (1783) in the early part of the century been the property of the partners of the North West Co. When I saw it in 1818 the north west corner of St. Gabriel running down perhaps 2/3 of the way to St. Paul Street was a rough stone two storey building occupied for the offices of North West Co. and whose premises on Ste. Theres ran back to Vaudreuil. About 1842 this was sold to Mr. Desbarats who put on another storey and made it the Canada Hotel. At the corner of St. Paul Street was an insignificant building occupied I think by a

Tobacconist. Then came on the east an ugly two storey shallow plastered building of Roderick McKenzie where he kept a dry goods store in a very small way. A very good old man, but like Melchizeoch, had no forefathers before him and his daughters vanished, (not the same man as the Tynebourne McKenzie. Next on the corner of Vaudreuil was the rubble plaster dwelling house of Jas Millar whose partnership with Parland of London was dissolved at this time. A Mr. Edmonson the book keeper became a partner under the firm name of Millar Edmonson & Co. which after Mr. Millar's death by the admission of Mr. Allan, after Sir Hugh Allan, became Edmonson Allan & Co. until the death of Mr. Edmonson when it became the present firm of H & A Allan & Co. In rear of the large dwelling house was a yard, then a narrow warehouse fronting on St. Therese Street where the business of the firm was carried on. Millar and Parland had been large importers of clothes and dry goods with a retail store on St. Paul Street (to the westward) but after Parland's departure it drifted into general business and ship building and the shipping trade. The ground on the north east side of Vaudreuil St. was I think vacant.

On the corner of St. Paul was a long two storey rough stone building the west end of which was the office of the Bank of Montreal established in the previous autumn 1817. Benjamin Holmes, afterwards cashier was the first teller and Rodenhurst the second teller. Both had been Lieutenants in the Canadian Fencibles. On the removal of

the Bank to St. James Street on the following year this became Rasco's Saloon and restaurant. East of this on the corner of St. Vincent was a shabby one storey building occupied by Walter Peddy as a hardware store, in the rear of which going up St. Vincent Street was a large two storey building, rough plastered in which was the office of Samuel Gale, one of our best Lawyers and afterwards Judge Gale.

The first house coming down St. Vincent from Notre Dame on the East side was an inferior building (in the rear of the one opening on Notre Dame) rebuilt to be known as "Swords Coffee House". Rebuilt again it was used as Lawyers offices and either that building or another makes the west end of the Richilieu. Then I think was another small building and then the office and dwelling of Fred W. Ermatinger the Sherrif who resided here with two elderly maiden sisters, one of which at the age of 60, married Dr. Garret an army Surgeon. I would not be surprised if it still stands. It was mean looking but very comfortable inside. Below on the corner of Viger Street was the grocery store of Carswell whose daughter married John Sextin a young lawyer and for many years afterwards, Recorder of the City. The corner below I think was the yard of a storey and a half house on St. Paul Street occupied by a tobacconist. Then came on St. Paul Street three or four rough buildings, one of them two stories and a fair frontage and then at the corner of Jacques Cartier Square was what had been the store of Pierre Delvechio, known as



"Pierre l'Italien". The rear of this up to Viger Street was I think vacant as was the upper side of the street, both covered by rough boards and occupied by the stands of small dealers in leather, moccasins, tinware and various necessaries for which a very heavy rent was paid. Mr. Andre LaPierre one of our respected citizens commenced his trading in one of these sheds. Delvechio had a summer retreat at the head of Durocher St. with with five acres of ground, converted by the late Robert Esdale into a comfortable mansion but then an uncouth edifice looking as if it had been built with a view to defence as a dwelling, stable and grainery in the days of the Iroquois incursions.

Above this shed of LaPierre's which belonged to Mr. D. B. Viger was a two storey tavern and above this one of a larger dimension with a large yard in rear. Kept as a Tavern, always full of country people by Mr. Giraldi known over the district as "Monsieur Serraphien". Then between this and the corner of Notre Dame came a building of Mr. Jos. Roy, soon after torn down to build the Nelson Hotel which was burnt down during the Gauazzi excitement of 1854. The coroners jury examining into the causes of the massacre commencing its sittings at the old guard house opposite the monument was literally driven out of there by bed bugs which dropped from the ceilings and commenced their sittings in the hotel when the act as was supposed by an incendiary drove them from there. The structure erected in its place is now the east end of the Richilieu.

About half way between St. Vincent Street and the Square on St. Paul Street, is the office where the Lumiere was established and remained until after 1837.

### St. Paul

Near by a roadway ran from the New Market to the river. At the west was a tall rough building occupied as a grocery where John Tiffin commenced the fortune of that family. This building was removed to widen the passage to the river and Mr. Damien's hardware store forms the corner. I cannot give an exact description of what followed from this to St. Gabriel Street further than to say that the first buildings were one storey and uncouth. Nearly opposite the end of St. Vincent Street in which was the office of The Bank of Canada, Thomas O'Turner, President; Robert Armour, Cashier; Principal, Clark Yarker who had been Clerk of the Commissariat and was Grandfather of the present Manager of the present Federal Bank.

West of the Bank was Mr. Fluery Roy - father of Mrs. Louis Denault and Mrs. John Pratt. His partner Levesque was the husband of Mde. Levesque of Lagauchetiere Street. They were retail drygoods merchants and people used to say jocularly that if the names meant anything (King and Bishop) ought to be the stongest firm in town. Either at that time or soon after the next neighbour was Mrs. Solomon who for years (her husband a Russian Jew) was Arbiter of

the fur business for the ladies. On the site of Messrs. Provost's large store opposite Vaudreuil Street was a long two storey well built rough stone building, In 1829 Archibald Hume had a large grocery store on this lot, at one end and Mr. Thos. Munsen, still living commenced a retail drygoods business at the other end and I took the upper part as a dwelling and was burnt out in March 1830. I took no note and remembering no note of the circumstance, but it has always been in my memory that the ice in the river in that spring went off gradually with no shove anywhere, nor any rise of the water above the common May level. Between this and St. Gabriel Street there were substantial stone stores. The whole line from the Square to St. Gabriel Street were occupied by retail traders. St. Gabriel Street then ended at St. Paul, the passage to the river being merely the width of a cart. West of this passage was the dwelling and shop of Mr. Walker, dealer in perfumery and toilet articles, father of Mr. Jos. Walker (Grenier & LeClaire) long known as the agent of English hardware houses, whose daughter is now in Europe pursuing a course of musical instruction. Then came a long two storey building belonging to Judge Gale, rebuilt for the Messrs. LeClaire. On the east end of Judge Gale's building was the shop of Mrs. Northen, the great milliner of the day whose dwelling was above. She had two or three pretty daughters; one married a druggist who removed to Chicago and I think the whole family went there. At the west end was the premises of Henry and Bethune, auctioneers. Henry had been a fur trader to beyond Lake Superior and wrote a book of travels in that

region in which he mentions the masses of pink copper to be found there. He was at Mackinow when the Whites were massacred by Pontiac. Mr. Bethune was a brother to the Reverened John Bethune, for 1/2 a century the rector of Christ Church Cathedral and brother-in-law to Mr. Norman Kitson, the millionaire of St. Paul.

Following was Jacob Hall, brother of Benjamin Hall living at the mountain. Miss Hall who died lately was his niece. On the street was a large hat store and dwelling and in the rear a hat manufacturer. He built in 1817 the large house on Sherbrooke Street now occupied by Mr. Barnard. Dr. Archibald Hall, long known here in the medical profession was his son, another son died in California and a daughter died young. Then in a very rough two storey building was the hardware store of Wm. Stuart Peddie through which St. Jean Baptiste has been cut to the river. Then came a low two storied plastered dwelling house, long occupied by Mr. Moffatt who had not yet become a partner in the house of Gerard Gillespie and Co. whose offices were then at the west end of this building adjoining a warehouse which extended to Commissioner Street. (Between that and Hall's I should have put two buildings). Westward was a large store with dwelling overhead, long occupied by Mr. Tiffin but in 1817 by Alison Turner & Co. The premises were burnt down after Alison left the country and Turner died leaving a widow and family. One of the daughters married Mr. McCulloch - father of Ferd McCulloch, and died lately leaving a small fortune to Rev. Mr. Evans.

From this to Dizier Lane, about 50 or 60 feet were two stores, one of them occupied by Mrs. Margaret Gibb who kept a sort of toy shop; and mother of J. J. Gibb, Notary. This lot was purchased some years after (1824) by R. N. Harwood who built up on it a very handsome block, comprising a warehouse for himself extending from St. Paul to Commissioner Street, at the east side with a aisle (wing) on St. Paul for a large drygoods store running to St. Dizier Lane. The investment was a good one for he sold it to advantage to Mr. Redpath in 183?. He told me that he was the first man in Montreal that put up a building and sold it with a profit. Redpath sold it to Messon who removed his business to it from Notre Dame Street and it still belongs to his estate. On the west side of Dizier Lane was very low plastered two storey house occupied by an American named Throop as a retail dry goods store. (N.B. Throop's store is now Thibardeau & Co.'s premises). He removed to Coburg and flourished there. Westwards was a long two storey rough stone building which had been sold by Mr. John Shuter (who had retired to London with a fortune) to Gabriel Thayer, an American who had made a fortune during the war by furnishing cattle for the troops. He kept a very exclusive crockery store, built a large brick warehouse on Commissioner Street with a wing at each end joining the front building. The front of the Shuter building has been re-built into five stores and the rear building was burnt a year or two ago. Next westward was the wholesale and retail grocery of Thomas Torrance, brother of John T. Thomas who in 1817 built the house on the corner

of St. Lawrence and Sherbrooke, and known as Belmont Hall, Thomas had a family of daughters who removed to Quebec, one marrying Robert Shaw, who lived to an old age and whose sons have figured in our Montreal commerce. This is the property rebuilt by Mr. Burland and noted by the few years since by the law suit with Mr. Judah. Next was the property of Mrs. Lamontagne that ran through to the water there, having two houses on St. Paul - one occupied as a retail drygoods store by Mr. Woolwich - father of Mrs. Tinstall who had the celebrated Lawsuit on the matrimonial question. He was a very handsome man, always dressed in the best style and the perfection of good manners with his customers.

The next was a very low two storey building occupied as a leather store by Thomas French, father of Mrs. Benjamin Brewster and George French still connected with the old Champlain Rail Road business at St. Johns. The Tannery of Mr. French was on the west side of St. Lawrence Street at the bottom of the hill near Ontario Street on the corner was a building occupied by Gaudry for a shoe store. All the lots on St. Paul from the new market to Lamontaigne ran through to the river.

Note Book Six

In 1807 the place east of Dalhousie Square was called "The Cross".

The east corner of St. Gabriel and St. Paul was a two storey house I think occupied by Andrew Shaw, but anyhow his warehouse and business premises were in rear of it on St. Gabriel Street. Next was Nicol Meneclier de Moroehoud, a small respectable retired trader. At that time it appeared to me that there were a great number of Canadians who had made money during the war (in various modes of trade) with which they had themselves comfortable dwellings and had a small cash reserve on which they were living. His son was rather a small fellow who never did anything. They built a house on St. Denis Street below St. Catherine, a long one storey, unsubstantial, occupied by Mde. Bourret. Then a one storey building soon after occupied by A & L Glass as a retail grocery. They were uncles to John Glass of Mr. Dougall and Glass. There was a three storey building built in that year by Mr. J. T. Barret and H. H. Commingham about 34' x 30', the east end occupied by the owner as a bookstore and circulating library, the west end by Mr. Barret as a wholesale and retail hardware store in which I first entered my experience in business. It may .....?..... hardware even today when I say that we carried on a wholesale and retail business in flats of about 17' x 30' having custom as to Quebec beyond Brantford. (Barrat house where I began custom on my own account in 1825).

I remember selling a fishing rod to our Westernmost customer for Miss Brant, the daughter of the celebrated John Brant of Wyoming in Campbells poem of Gertrade who according to a publication of his son Foster Brant was not then there at all.

From there to the corner was another two storey house occupied by the same firm of Glass as a retail grocery. They formed the corner of St. Jean Baptiste. The property was then I think, owned by Mr. Bresse of Chambly who transferred to C. Rodier with the property corner of Notre Dame and St. Francois Xavier Street. The west corner of St. Francois Xavier Street and St. Paul was a one storey house soon removed and rebuilt by Perrault, brother of Mrs. Molson who resided at Outremont. He had been an M.P. His was a well arranged shop (drygoods and hat store).

Then followed a rookery of old buildings typical of the settlements on ground about 50 feet deep out from the Nun's garden in the rear extending to the gateway of the Congregation Nunnery about opposite Street Dizier Lane. Inside this gateway was a stable to which the cows came at night, a bakery and other out buildings and connected with this Nunnery which had its front entrance from Notre Dame Street. The property of the Hotel Dieu commenced from this entrance and continued westward to St. Sulpice.



First on the street there was a very high wall extending as far as the Church which was opposite to where Woolrich was which was the second house west of Thos. Torrance. Behind this wall was a high rough building probably three stories occupied by the nuns as their cloister. The Church faced on St. Paul Street and was about 15 feet from the street. The greatest ornament of this Church was a piece of tapestry which surrounded the upper part of the front end of the gallery and had been made by Nuns in France and sent out in a French ship which was captured by an English cruiser and the English made it a present to the Nuns.

West of the Church, to the corner of Notre Dame was a one storey building and on the corner a two storey building always let for drygoods. Behind these buildings was a narrow yard, then the Hospital<sup>s</sup> extending from the Church to St. Sulpice Street (occupying two flats, the lower for men and the upper for women). There was a short aisle which ran back along St. Sulpice to about the corner of what is now ..... Street. And here was a gateway opening into a large yard, faced by a long building running from the east end of the Hospital, on northward from behind the Church in which was the kitchen and a large salon and other rooms for the purpose of the nunnery and within the enclosure was the bakery on the left hand of the gate entering I think.

From this gateway to within about 100 feet from Notre Dame Street there ran a wall of about 8 feet high behind which was the garden. Then a warehouse occupied by J. & J. Young, Auctioneer, (Donegan put a new front to it) with a very narrow yard separating it from the house facing on Notre Dame Street (now rebuilt). In regard to the next ten or a dozen premises on Notre Dame going east I cannot locate them in succession but they were all respectable looking two storey buildings mostly plaster and one I remember of rough stone, the lots, running back about 100 feet, not altogether of the same depth and bordered by the nunnery gardens.

Starting from the corner there was the confectionery store of Northrop whose widow married a brother of Thomas Mussen. Then came the drygoods store of James Flemming, the only retail dry-goods store there in Notre Dame Street. He married a Miss Warmsley of l'Acadie, sister of Dr. Warmsley, and left a Progeny still living with us. Warmsley had married a Miss McGinnis, and Montgomery a merchant near here was Mrs. Flemings sister.

There was an archway, leading to a warehouse in rear occupied by Blackwood & Larocque which firm soon disappeared. Then Nicols and Sandford, auctioneers, the latter brother-in-law to John Boston afterwards Sherrif. Their book keeper Seymour became a celebrated steamboat Captain on the North River, I think brother-in-law to Mrs. George Brush. He died highly respected at

over 90 years of age. Mr. Huguet Latour N.P., owner of several pieces of property had his office on this lane. I put the sequence as near as I can.

Then opposite Musson came the establishment of Robertson Messon & Co. Hugh Robertson, a Scotch merchant had returned to Glasgow leaving the business in charge of his young partner Jos. Messen, who adopted the English way of spelling his name being originally McCan, and he built up the largest and most profitable drygoods business known in Canada. Dying in 1847, he left to his family the legacy of T..... a large amount of most valuable city real estate and a large amount in commercial stock, bank stock and other securities. At his death his estate was the largest any man in Montreal had up that time left to his family. He left about \$1,250,000. He had married Miss Raymond of LaPrairie. He was poor and never thought of a marriage contract and when he became rich wanted to bargain with her but she would not. An archway at the end of the house led to a warehouse in rear where the business of the firm was conducted for many years. He afterwards moved to the house Mr. Harwood had built on Notre Dame and St. Viger. (Danmore Messon was a county merchant and made money here as a grocer and his sons took that store. He was not connected to Jos. Messon). The front on Note Dame was Jos. Messon's dwelling house.

Directly opposite the end of St. Lambert Street was another archway marking the passage from Notre Dame to Notre Dame de Pitie Church and Nunnery, then there was a long building belonging to Mde. Austriel Cuillivier occupied by Mr. Cuillivier as an auction room. East of this was a stone wall about 8 ft. high bounding the nunnery ground on that side as far as St. John Baptiste Street while a similar wall went down the whole west side of that street to the rear of the building of Mr. Perrault at the corner of St. Paul. Thus you may assume that the property of the Nuns of the Hotel Dieu and that of the Soeurs de La Charite occupied with their garden the whole centre of the square bounded by St. S. Notre Dame, St. Jean Baptiste and St. Paul. I think there was as a dividing line a stone wall running from south to north, the larger portion belonging to the Hotel Dieu. All was garden except for the rim of buildings named fronting on Notre Dame or St. Paul. The Chapel and buildings of the Corporation were all enclosed by those walls and some distance from the street.

#### St. Jean Baptiste Street

On the east side of St. Jean Baptiste Street the first building behind Brenes on St. Paul was a common one storey plastered house, next a long rough stone one with an archway through it (still standing) of a rather uncouth architecture within and without, then

occupied by Mrs. Babuty as a very superior boarding house and afterwards converted for mercantile purposes. The one and a half platerer's house occupied by a Canadian Duplessis, one of class of trades before mentioned, who had returned happy after the war with a small committence. Then a two storey plastered house belonging to Mrs. Langan, widow of a merchant mother of Mrs. James Leslie and of the wife of Mr. Ashworth of the Commissariat. Leslie, M.P. Grandfather of (Delisle Leslie) father of the present manager of the Montreal Bank in London (England). A smaller house came above and a gateway leading to a yard which ran through to St. Gabriel Street with a large warehouse in the centre, occupied by the firm of Irving Leslie & Co., wholesale general merchant dealing mostly in liquors and groceries. Next above that came a two storey building corner of Notre Dame and facing on Notre Dame behind which was a small warehouse, afterwards occupied by Wmn. Peddie and then Ferd. McCulloch afterwards cashier of the City Bank, first with an office.

The slope of the hill gave a basement to the corner house with a door on St. Jean Baptiste Street at the lower end with a few steps to go down making the room a half cellar and this room was the only post office for the City of Montreal in charge of a Mulatto lad, son to Mr. Williams, the Post Master. From this house along Notre Dame to St. Gabriel I do not recollect the occupants. They were occupied by stores and dwellings. On the corner was a rough

stone two storey double house occupied by owner Mr. J. S. Beck, Collector of the Port whose office which then served for all the business of the Custom House of Montreal was a room 12' or 15' Square in rear of the staircase of the main passage which opened into Notre Dame Street. I remember Mr. Wm. Hall afterwards collector of Montreal, sitting there, apparently the only Clerk in charge there. This property ended with the yard of Irvine Leslie & Co. which as before mentioned ran through to St. Jean Baptiste Street on the south side of the yard. Facing on St. George was an uncouth Barrack looking building then occupied by Mr. Leslie as a dwelling. From this point down to the premises of Mr. Shaw, corner of St. Paul was a line of old buildings which I think one still standing partly dwellings and offices of Notaries etc. One of them I remember was vaulted for the cellar and first story and I suppose still remains so.

North west corner of St. Sulpice and St. Paul was a three story plastered house in good condition occupied by Mrs. Rae as a retail drygoods store assisted by a son who removed to the Townships. Mrs. Rae occupied the upper part as her residence which was rather well fitted up, and rather a respectable place. She had three daughters, very fine young women. She shortly removed to St. Antoine Street to a house with a large garden behind and afterwards purchased by Mr. Jos. Donegani and through which Donegani Street now runs. He gave his name to the street about to be expropriated for

the CPR Depot. The two eldest daughters removed and married. The younger married Mr. John Smith a wholesale and retail grocer of St. Paul Street who lived to a very old age, in good circumstances in a modern house on St. Alexander Street (near Ferriers) leaving six handsome daughters. Mrs. Andrew Allan, Lady Hugh Allan, Mrs. Rae, Mrs. Belhouse, Mrs. Cranford (not Verdun Cranford) but son of Dr. Cranford and Mrs. McDougall.

The next was occupied by Mrs. Aird, another widow, as a small drygoods store. Mrs. Aird's had a small stock of small goods. The east end was cut off as a parlour. She was an excellent woman revered for her good works. Her eldest son was a partner in the firm of McNider, Aird and White Auctioneers. Her daughter married Mr. McNider. She had a summer retreat at Cote St. Catherines now called Outremont about 1/4 of a mile west of the entrance to the Protestant Cemetery, which was inherited and became the residence of a younger son. This small farm is at present marked by a summer house or "Vide Bouteille" the centre of which was originally the deck house of the steamer "Car of Commerce" which was the first boat that came up the St. Mary's current with her own power 70 years ago.

The next house was a very shabby plastered 2 story house occupied as a coarse drygood store (one of these habitant stores). The second story extending over the gateway to the buildings now occupied by J. G. McKenzie & Co. This building of J. G. McKenzie was

then the property of William Hunter, grandfather of Hunter, Notary of Cushing and Hunter and his brother Thomas. They were I think going out of business and the building was leased to various people for various purposes, until I took it on a long lease in 1829 where by taking down stone partition wall - and a flat stone pavement laid on 6 inches of sand as a garret floor I made it a respectable place. The father of the present Curé Senieme, made it a good job. (He was a contractor). A store at the east end I fitted out especially for Mr. Thomas Mussen for a first class drygoods store. In 1833 he took the upper part for his dwelling. This lot as well as the one to the west runs back some 200 feet to the garden of the Seminary. The front of the last named was a one story plastered house occupied by two or three small coarse drygoods shops.

<sup>s</sup> West again was the premises occupied as the retail drygoods store of Miller Parland & Co., where the most costly goods were to be had, and at this time transferred to Richard Watkins who continued the same business for several years, and our grand ladies might be seen making their inspection in one small room with a very small window, separated from another small room in the rear by a heavy stone wall, and from which a small door led into a smaller room that today would be considered too rough for a stable. Then came a house with longer front of the same coarse architecture ending with a small lane.



St. Paul Street to St. Sulpice Street to this point was about 25 feet wide till widened after the fire of 1852. The east end of the building was another of the small drygoods stores. It might have been 16' x 30' and such was the competition for those places that I remember one room being rented for \$600.00 per annum. The west portion was the hat store of Jaberg DeWett, brother of Jacob. Beneath was a high vaulted basement occupied as a general store by a man named Healy who left for the States soon after. He was the builder of a cottage then standing in an open field which afterward came on the line of Aylmer Street on City Councillor and long the residence of Rev. Dr. Matheson. Afterwards this house was occupied by Mr. Hager, father of our crockery merchant.

Here a lane runs up to what was called the Commercial Hotel kept by Mr. Pomeroy, a high basement two storey, rough building with a narrow addition at the east end fitted inside as a most wretched dwelling house (a most deplorable looking place). This building belonging to the seminary was burnt in 1852 a year before the great fire and the same year St. Paul Street was burnt and rebuilt for the hardware store of Messrs. F. Workman. At the west side of this lane was an ordinary two story plastered building occupied by two or three rough drygoods stores.

West was a three story building belonging then or soon after to Fdl. Quesnel, occupied on the east end by James A. Dwight as a

Jeweller shop with his dwelling upstairs. The west end was occupied by Jason C. Pierce as a retail grocery store which he left to become a forwarding agent at St. Johns where he became an enterprising and flourishing citizen, a great promoter of the first Rail Road in Canada running from thence to La Prairie. The first locomotive on the road bore his name for many years. (This one was from the States). The first engine imported from England in 1835 found too weak for the work. The engine driver from the States refused to drive saying he would not drive a one horse team. The three commissioners sent to investigate the greviances of the driver but they were ignored. I was present at the opening of this road in the fall of 1835. Lord Gosford, Governor General with his fellow commissioners Gibb and Grey were with the party and there was a merry time with a banquet at St. John's station. But all was turned into sorrow when getting on board the steamer at La Prairie on our return she grounded five hundred yards from the shore. We pulled hard to get off. Lord Gusford himself pulling at the rope but to no effect. It was difficult to billet the Company in the Village and many had to sleep on the floor.

West of this was a very antiquated three story building with vaulted basement, the east end occupied by Day & Gelston, mostly as druggist with some other odds and ends; Mr. Day was the father of Judge Day, Chancellor of McGill University. Day and Gelston's portion was soon after occupied by J. J. Fotheringham and from that

time has remained with a large lot in rear of the premises of the Fotheringham business. As showing the value of the property, this old building with the lot in rear which reached through a narrow doorway had been purchased by Jacob de Witt about 1816 for \$4,000. About 1846, he sold it for \$18,000.

The west end is long known as Mr. Tuttle's stationary store was then the drygood store of S. B. Cobb and Co. Then the office and dwelling of Felix Souigny whose property ran back to the seminary gardens. Mr. Souigny was a bachelor, very rich and a most excellent man and highly esteemed. When the work of the great Parish Church was arrested for want of funds he undertook to direct the work to its completion and advancing his own funds on loan and building one of the towers at his own expence. He divided his large property between two nephews, Hubert Parre who served him faithfully for many years in the grain trades in which he was a large dealer, and the Rev. Mr. Vinet of Sault aux Recollets. He was sort of king over the habitants who in the winter brought in their wheat for sale, often jamming up the street through the morning, waiting to get the highest price. In the afternoon you would see Mr. Souigny step out, cane in hand, go up to one of the sleigh loads, take a handful of wheat out of one of the bags and ask the price. The habitant would reply saying "Quatre Livres dix"; "No, no, no" Souigny would say; "Quatre francs". Then taking the horse by the bridle would turn him into his gateway and start him in a trot, hitting him with his cane,

telling the habitant to follow with the addition "Le petit Pere vous payeres", then press on to the next load which he would dispatch in the same way. The habitant knew that Mr. Souligny was a perfectly just man, that what he named was the highest price to be possibly obtained and that when he appeared upon the street they might as well close their day's business. On one occasion a lumber dealer with whom he had large transactions failed, owing him a large sum which troubled him a little till sending for his friend "Le Petit Pelletier" (Tousignant Pelletier the Lawyer who had a conscience) and being assured that the amount of the indebtedness was only 14,000 Pounds he said "ah, ca c'est rien il etait une bonne pratique".

The other side of the gateway belonged to Mr. Souligny through the whole depth. Some years before it had been brought to Sherrifs sale and Mr. Souligny who was determined to have it dared not go to the auction but deputed his friend Pierre Bertlelet who scared by the determined bidding of Mr. De Witt to the rage of Mr. Souligny did not purchase nor could he get the property till he gave De Witt \$8,000 bonus over the purchase price. (De Witt occupied that little place then as a pen and pen knife sort of store. That gateway is where Darling is.

West was a two storey plastered building occupied on the east end by a drygoods shop of Augustine Frechette and the west end by Metzler a bachelor who occupied the whole upper part as a

dwelling. His step-daughter Miss Porter married his foreman Boulangette, a very smart handsome fellow who became a leading citizen here till he retired to enjoy more ease at St. Hyacinthe. West was the drygoods store of one Dupuis whose clerk was Jean Bruneau who became the greatest of the retail merchants of St. Paul Street, made a good deal of money during the rebellion, went into a large wholesale business and built several first-class residences. One year he had no less than 11 retail drygoods stores on St. Paul Street, all run by himself (and he had to run himself up and down the street).

Westward was Foster, a Mulatto barber, a gentlemanly, educated handsome man who built and left to his family some of the first brick houses on Common Street. The corner of St. Francois Xavier Street was a very ancient building 2 storey plastered, with the end on St. Paul Street where the declivity of the ground made a vault, half basement and half cellar occupied as a hardware store by Jacob de Witt & Co. , the partner being Goerge Willard, but known to the habitants as "Le Grand Couteau" there being a carving knife and fork three feet long over the door. Willard, one afternoon, horse whipped in the store Col. Burer, Commondant of the 37th Regiment then in Garrison for some slight offence and there the matter ended. Benjamin Brewster, De Witts nephew took the place who went elsewhere. Henry Mulholland came in afterwards as book keeper and the house finally ended as Mulholland and Baker in 1875. Brewster

built a saw mill and basin on the canal just outside the City limits now the property of Mr. Ward.

The north end of this building on St. Francois Xavier Street was a wretched den, where Mr. Francois who became a rich proprietor first commenced his business as a ship chandler he having converted the old Champs Coffee House into a large marine store.

Note Book Seven

North of the gateway was a very good one storey house occupied as a dwelling by John Brown in some small trade whose name soon disappeared. When John McKenzie married Miss Fisher he put this house in good condition for a dwelling house where he resided for several years. At the north end was a vaulted room which John E. Mills, (the name of his family was originally Van der Meulen) occupied for many years for his banking business. The property belonged to Mr. Souigny and descended to the Rev. Mr. Vinet and has been rebuilt as a large warehouse. It burnt in 1885 - In rear behind the property occupied by Methler on St. Paul Street a long three storey warehouse extending to St. Paul was built for G. M. McKenzie (long the premises of Mulholland and Baker). It fell into the hands of Mr. Souigny and then to Mr. Vinet now occupied by Union Building.

North on St. Francois Xavier was a two storey plastered building, occupant not remembered, but soon afterwards converted into a wholesale drygoods store by Fisher & Hunter. John Fisher, a cousin of Mrs. Lunn, showed symptoms of friendship to the Canadians and was elected as M.P. by them as one of the members of the westward in 1827, but a few years afterwards he was one of the haughtiest on the other side, being the main supporter of the "Ami du Peuple". His brother-in-law, Francis Hunter became a clerk in the Receiver General's office and now lives in Ottawa superannuated. Next was a two storey building usually occupied by some Scotch tailor,

next came one of those non descript houses of which I will make full mention hereafter. There was an archway leading down to the cellar, and through to the rear which like all the buildings from this northward was but a few feet from the wall of the Seminary gardens. The passage was merely high enough for a man stooping to run a wheel-barrow. On the left was the doorway of the house with a sufficiency of steps to reach the level of the floor on the top of this passage, and there another flight of steps to lead down again to the floor on the level of the street.

An adjoining small house was occupied by Dr. Martin Paine, brother of the Gov. Paine who constructed the Vermont Central Railroad. He went to New York, married Miss Weeks, daughter of the rich proprietor of the then Grand City Hotel and lived with a high reputation. Next following was a large three storey barrack looking building owned by a Bowman, bookseller and stationery who with Mr. Benjamin Workman, as editor, brother of our Mr. Thomas purchased the "Canadian Courant" which was continued by them for sometime.

In a room at the north end R. B. Issacson about 1836 opened a restaurant under the name of "Dolly's Chophouse" from which he got the name of Dolly that he bore through life. Successful in business he soon occupied the whole building and about 1845 removed to St. James Street where he continued till his death, being one of the most noted characters of the day. Honest, straight-forward, filled with English truth, and manliness, dressed in knee breeches of the



last generation he kept an excellent eating house, patronized by the best people over which he reigned as a dictator. He was the father of J. H. Isaacson, N.P. and another son.

Then followed a long, very old building. I think of wood occupied by a jeweller whose name I forget, but his two daughters called themselves Normandeau. The eldest was one of the prettiest girls who ever tripped the streets of Montreal who married Auger our first City Treasurer, a very handsome man. I think he left no children. The other married a hardware merchant of Quebec who afterwards resided somewhere on the Richilieu.

From thence to a few yards above Hospital Street there were two or three houses, description not remembered. They were soon after pulled down and rebuilt and from that point to Notre Dame Street and from thence on Notre Dame Street to the Church, ran the Seminary wall, from 8 to 12 feet high. The only opening being the present gateway opposite the clock and an archway between that and First Street opening to a passage that led to the Seminary garden. Where the Hochelaga Bank now stands was the wood shed of the Seminary. The Seminary building was the same as originally built and as now remains. The east end which exactly corresponded was removed at the same time as the old Church and the present building put up on the same ground very much enlarged. The facade of Notre Dame Church ran at right angles with this wall facing directly down Notre Dame Street to McGill and extending to the tower in which were the four

bells, now at the Bishop's Church which stood several feet northward off the present line of Notre Dame Street which is fifteen feet North of the old line. The North end probably was 10 feet north of the Insurance Building. (The Tower would about face its door. This facade about 100 years old was a well constructed specimen of architecture, and on the demolition of the Church was made the facade of the old Recollet Church where it stood until that was demolished, (the old facade having been removed).

Between the towers and the corner building now the Royal Insurance Office, was the passage into Place d'Armes about 40 feet wide, passing through which ran the sidewalk, turning abruptly to the east around the Tower and following the curved line of the north side of the Church till it came to the north line of East Notre Dame Street fifteen feet back from the present line. The Church on this side and in rear was about 20 feet high with a very high tin roof. A curved high wall commenced near the east end to the south line of Notre Dame Street and then came 200 yards straight down St. Sulpice Street.

At the south end of this wall, there was then built on shortly, after a rough stone two storey dwelling house occupied by Glen Samuel Gerard till 1823. Following came a long rough high basement dwelling occupied by Mr. Hayes, brother-in-law of David David and father of J. Hayes, Manager of the Water Works while it belonged to the Hayes estate, a very enterprising popular

citizen. He had married a Miss Joseph from New York. Lived in good style, and were acknowledged to be the handsomest couple in the City. This family became scattered, broken down and died poor. All these buildings were removed to make way for the foundation of the present Parish Church which was in 1823 (I think). I remember the laying of the corner stone, in which the principal figure apart from the Clergy was Sir Francis Burton, nominal Lt. Gov. of the Province, appointed to that Sinecure office about a dozen years before, had resided in England with a salary of 500 Pound Sterling and never visited Canada until this year, when he administered the Government for a few months, during the absence of the Governor General, Lord Dalhousie.

The Architect of this Church was a protestant who nevertheless devised good work. The foundations were very broad and built in a course of arches of solid masonry. Though he had neither the workmen nor appliances for stone work we have today, and money was the most scarce of all materials, the edifice stands today as a monument of what good work could have been done in stone in those days. Current gossip attributed the failure of the great North West Co. to the building of this Church. It was said that David David, having about 30,000 Pounds in the hands of the Company, becoming a little weary about his security, drew it all and loaned it to the Seminary as a better investment.

Farther down St. Sulpice was the first Methodist Chapel of the City, a building of 20 or 30 feet front by 30 or 40 feet deep, and opened not very long before and occupied as their only Chapel till they removed to the corner of St. James and St. Francois Xavier since known as the Medical Hall. After their departure it became the Mercantile Reading Room and Public Library till about 1840 after it was converted into a drygoods store and has since been used as the Fabrique. Below jammed behind this was the dwelling house of the Minister with no outlook but the back of the Chapel. I am not sure of the name of the Minister of that date, but Mr. Lasher, father of the Secretary of our CPR came in soon after and was instrumental in the removal to St. James Street. He was the most eloquent protestant preachers of the City always filling the little Church to overflowing, for outsiders were always striving for admission, which I often accomplished by going as the companion of a very pious middle aged lady (one of Mr. Barret's sisters).

Then came a house, neither one storey nor two, but with the end to the street belonging to the Seminary and looking as if built before there was any other house on the street.

Then an old building taken down by G. John McKenzie when he married Miss Gates and erected a modern cut stone dwelling with a large warehouse for his business in rear, became one of the richest mercantile affairs of the City. He lived till near 90 leaving a

fortune of near \$1,000,000. Then followed the great premises of the late James Dunlop, a Scotch bachelor who had opened a very great dryGoods trade. First was a stone house with a vaulted cellar, and vaulted first floor with two stories above of a old construction running from some 40 feet from St. Sulpice to about 60 feet westward. In front of this on the street he had built a two storey rough stone dwelling house running down till it came in contact with the rear of Mrs. Rae's property fronting on St. Paul Street. Intervening was a gateway leading to the interior square with offices on the left hand and at the bottom a passage let through to St. Paul Street along the east of what are the present premises of J. G. McKenzie & Company. For some years afterwards, the Post Office of Montreal was in this yard where the passage turns to St. Paul Street (on left hand corner of the passage) to which it was removed from Little St. James at the head of St. Lawrence, having been before at the corner of St. Jean Baptiste and Notre Dame.

The second storey of the warehouse alluded to was occupied by Charles Brooks, a Yorkshire dealer in cloths whose house and garden were at the corner of Bleury and Sherbrook Streets, the garden being still vacant ground. This property now belongs to the Estate of William Darling who also owns the rear half of the lot occupied by G.J.G. McKenzie & Co. on St. Paul which I described before as at one time occupied by me. Mr. Darling came to the country a young Scotsman in 1843, a man of great capacity and business ability, who

built up a large business very rapidly. First in St. Sacrement Street then in Mr. Souigny's old property facing Custom House Square, next to where Adam Darling is near Frothingham and then to these premises on St. Sulpice. A fine old Elm tree was still standing in the yard. The position of the dwelling house between the old warehouse and St. Sulpice Street had been for years converted into a place of business opening into the great vault in rear, which with the stories above became his place of business as they now remain in the hands of his sons. The remainder of the dwelling house down to Mrs. Rae's property was connected with two storeys. Five of Mr. Darling's brothers and one half-brother followed him to do well in this Country. The latter Henry Darling has been successful in business in Toronto and is now President of the Commercial Bank. William Darling who was really a very superior man left four sons, all men of resolute business capacity and habits with a fortune which makes the business story. In 1818 these premises were occupied by McNider, Aird and White, Auctioneers; Aird soon died, White went away and McNider did a large drygoods business for many years. He built a stone circus on Craig Street on what is now the rear of St. Lawrence Hall and a large cottage, corner of Sherbrook and Aylmer to which a second story was added and is now the property of John M. Young.

Jas Scott

In speaking of the old rookeries, a group of mean tenements east of the Hotel on St. Paul, I omitted to mention that one of them was occupied by Benjamin Solomon who with a brother residing in Albany, carried on a large Tobacco business. They built a large building at St. Lambert, directly opposite the City, long known as the Tobacco factory and occupied in recent times as a public house by Mr. Irving. On his death the business went into the hands of Mr. Joseph, father of J.H. Joseph and his brothers and his son continuing the business made out of it the great fortune he now enjoys.