

LA VISION DE FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED RELATIVE AU MONT ROYAL

Une annexe de citations

PRÉLIMINAIRE

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et de la diversité ethnoculturelle**

Ville de Montréal

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LA MÉTHODOLOGIE

Le rapport final sur le mont Royal, 1881

Mount Royal, Montreal, Frederick Law Olmsted, Puttnam's, 1881, 80 p.

Le rapport final d'Olmsted sur le mont Royal est un des textes les plus importants d'Olmsted, comme le rappelait le corps principal de l'étude et de nombreuses citations. C'est pourquoi une grande partie des citations sont tirées de ce document essentiel. Le numéro de page de l'édition originale permet de localiser ces citations.

Ce rapport a été réédité il y a quelques années dans le livre de référence intitulé : *Supplementary Series, Volume I des Frederick Law Olmsted Papers, Writings on Public Parks, Parkways, and Park Systems*, Charles E. Beveridge and Carolyn F. Hoffman Editors, John Hopkins University, 1997, 643 pages. Le rapport final sur le mont Royal est inséré entre les pages 350 et 400 de ce livre incontournable pour quiconque s'intéresse à l'œuvre d'Olmsted dans le domaine du design. Dix-huit (18) pages d'annotations des éditeurs accompagnent ce texte très dense.

La correspondance d'Olmsted relative au mont Royal

La correspondance d'Olmsted relative au mont Royal est essentiellement concentrée à la Library of Congress, à Washington. Quelques documents se trouvent dans les archives de la Ville de Montréal. Quelques textes sont des brouillons. Plusieurs comportent maintes abréviations qui apparaissent comme telles, dans le présent document.

Parmi ces quarante-trois textes, les dix plus intéressants, pour quiconque s'intéresse à l'ensemble de l'œuvre d'Olmsted, ont été regroupés dans le volume VII des *Frederick Law Olmsted Papers, Parks, Politics and Patronage, 1874-1882*, Charles E. Beveridge, Carolyn F. Hoffman, Kenneth Hawkins, Editors, John Hopkins University, 2007. Dans ce livre de 756 pages, chaque texte est annoté par les éditeurs. Les abréviations et les erreurs ont été corrigées.

RÉSUMÉ DES CONTENUS,
Numéro de référence à la Library of Congress ou ailleurs,
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- *1 COÛT D'UNE ÉTUDE PRÉLIMINAIRE
Source: Olmsted Papers, Reel 30: 005
12 oct. 1874,
To P. O'Meara

- *2 RÉSUMÉ DU PROJET ÉLABORÉ LORS DE LA VISITE,
PARTICULIÈREMENT LES ENJEUX D'ACCESSIBILITÉ
Source: Olmsted Papers, Reel 30: 013
21 nov. 1874,
To the Commissioners of Mount Royal Park, Montreal
Volume VII, pages 84-91, incluant les commentaires des éditeurs

- *3 ENTENTE SUR LES MODALITÉS DE PLANIFICATION ET DE PAIEMENT
Source: Olmsted Papers, Reel 30: 50
23 nov. 1874,
To the Commissioners of Mount Royal Park, Montreal

- *4 PLUS DE TRAVAUX TEMPORAIRES SUR LES ROUTES,
BESOIN DE PRÉVOIR UN APPROVISIONNEMENT ADÉQUAT DE VÉGÉTAUX
Source: Olmsted Papers, Reel 30: 091
30 août 1875,
To the Mount Royal Park Commission of Montreal

- *5 ÉCHANGE POTENTIEL DE VÉGÉTAUX AVEC NEW-YORK
Source: Olmsted Papers, Reel 30: 107
30 août 1875,
To H. A. Nelson

- *6 DISPONIBILITÉ DE CERTAINES ESPÈCES DE VÉGÉTAUX,
NE PAS ENTREPRENDRE DE TRAVAUX POUR CRÉER UN FUNICULAIRE
AVANT QU'UN PLAN D'ENSEMBLE AIT ÉTÉ ADOPTÉ
Source: Olmsted Papers, Reel 30: 115
16 sept. 1875,
To H. A. Nelson

- *7 ÉVITER DE CRÉER L'ACCÈS PRINCIPAL DES CALÈCHES PAR LA RUE PEEL
Source: Olmsted Papers, Reel 30: 163
11 oct. 1875,
To H. A. Nelson
Volume VII, pages 156-158, incluant les commentaires des éditeurs

- *8 CONSTRUCTION DÉCEVANTE DE LA ROUTE, ENTRÉE PEEL...
BESOIN DE RELEVÉS AUX ABORDS DU CIMETIÈRE CÔTE-DES-NEIGES
Source: Olmsted Papers, Reel 30: 176
28 déc. 1875,
To H. A. Nelson
- *9 LE MAUVAIS TRAVAIL DÉTRUIT POUR TOUJOURS L'OPPORTUNITÉ DE BIEN FAIRE,
PAS D'ENDROIT PROPICE POUR IMPLANTER UN TERRAIN DE CRICKET,
BESOIN D'AGRANDIR LE TERRITOIRE OÙ FAIRE LES RELEVÉS, PRÈS DE CÔTE-DES-NEIGES,
RECHERCHE D'UN TERRAIN PROPICE POUR LA GLISSADE
Source: Montréal Archives Municipales
6 janvier 1876,
To H. A. Nelson
- *10 BESOIN D'UN PLAN TOPOGRAPHIQUE GLOBAL
Source: Olmsted Papers, Reel 56: 320
19 jan. 1876,
To H. A. Nelson
- *11 ACCÈS PEEL, LIMITES DU PARC
Source: Olmsted Papers, Reel 56: 328
20 jan. 1876,
To H. A. Nelson
- *12 NE PAS CONSTRUIRE DE BÂTIMENT SANS VISION GLOBALE,
BESOINS EN BÂTIMENTS, CROWN OF THE MOUNTAIN
Source: Olmsted Papers, Reel 56: 333
24 fév.1876,
To H. A. Nelson
- *13 SIGNALISATION, SURVEILLANCE
Source: Olmsted Papers, Reel 56: 353
24 mars 1876,
To H. A. Nelson
- *14 NE PAS CONSTRUIRE DE BÂTIMENT TEMPORAIRE PRÈS DU GRAND ESCALIER, RÉALISER « CROWN OF THE MOUNTAIN » AU SOMMET
Source: Montréal Archives Municipales
4 avril 1876,
To H. A. Nelson
Volume VII, pages 191-192, incluant les commentaires des éditeurs

- *15 ARBUSTES, ENTRÉE PEEL-RÉSERVOIR, LIMITES FROTHINGHAM, CÔTE-DES-NEIGES
Source: Olmsted Papers, Reel 56: 377
8 avril 1876,
To H. A. Nelson
- *16 RÉSERVOIR PROJETÉ, 5 ACRES OU 20
Source: Olmsted Papers, Reel 56: 382
11 avril 1876,
To H. A. Nelson
- *17 CRICKET, PAS D'APPROPRIATIONS EXCLUSIVES, BLEURY, ACCÈS UNIVERSITY
Source: Olmsted Papers, Reel 56: 399
29 avril 1876,
To H. A. Nelson
- *18 URGENCE DE STATUER SUR L'AVENIR DU RÉSERVOIR
Source: Montréal Archives Municipales
3 juin 1876,
To H. A. Nelson
- *19 ACHAT FROTHINGHAM ESSENTIEL, VENDRE AILLEURS
Source: Olmsted Papers, Reel 56: 417
3 juin 1876,
To H. A. Nelson
- *20 PÉTITION TRAMWAY BLEURY, CIMETIÈRE MONT-ROYAL
Source: Olmsted Papers, Reel 56: 421
5 juin 1876,
To "Sir"
- *21 NON TRANSMISSION DES DIRECTIVES AU SURINTENDANT
Source: Olmsted Papers, Reel 56: 427
6 juin 1876,
To H. A. Nelson
Volume VII, pages 201-204, incluant les commentaires des éditeurs
- *22 TRAMWAY BLEURY, FRONTIÈRES, RÉSERVOIR VS PLANS, GASPILLAGE, CONDITIONS FUTURES
Source: Olmsted Papers, Reel 56: 457
16 juin 1876,
To H. A. Nelson

- *23 RÉSERVOIR NATUREL OU GÉOMÉTRIQUE
Source: Olmsted Papers, Reel 30: 250
17 juin 1876,
à W. J. Picton

- *24 RÉSERVOIR DE 8 À 12 ACRES NON DÉSIRABLE, AGRANDIR LE PARC VERS
LA CÔTE-DES-NEIGES
Source: Olmsted Papers, Reel 56: 460
5 juillet 1876 ,
To Louis Lesage

- *25 RÉSERVOIR GÉOMÉTRIQUE ENTOURÉ D'UNE PROMENADE, FINITION
Source: Montréal Archives Municipales
26 juillet 1876,
To H. A. Nelson
Volume VII, pages 206-210, incluant les commentaires des éditeurs

- *26 NE PAS FINALISER LE CHEMIN DES CALÈCHES MENANT AU RÉSERVOIR
AVANT QUE CE DERNIER NE SOIT CONSTRUIT
Source: Montréal Archives Municipales
25 sept. 1876,
To H. A. Nelson

- *27 SOUHAITABLE DE CRÉER UN CHEMIN EN TERRE, PLUS CONFORTABLE
CRÉER UN PARC EST UNE ENTREPRISE À LONG TERME
Source: Olmsted Papers, Reel 56: 487
28 sept. 1876,
To H. A. Nelson
Volume VII, pages 235-237, incluant les commentaires des éditeurs

- *28 PROMONTOIRE POUR CALÈCHES
Source: Olmsted Papers, Reel 30: 305
12 oct. 1876,
To W. J. Picton

- *29 SENTIERS, ACCÈS MC TAVISH
Source: Montréal Archives Municipales
16 oct. 1876,
To H. A. Nelson

- *30 PROPRIÉTÉ FROTHINGHAM, POSSIBILITÉ DE VENDRE AILLEURS POUR
FINANCER LES ACQUISITIONS
Source: Olmsted Papers, 56: 519
3 déc. 1876,
To H. A. Nelson

- *31 FIN DU MANDAT DE PICTON
Source: Olmsted Papers, Reel 30: 312
16 déc. 1876,
To W. J. Picton

- *32 PLUS VALUE OCCASIONNÉ PAR "IMPROVEMENT ?? OF LANDSCAPE LOCAL BEAUTY"
Source: Montréal Archives Municipales
23 fév. 1877,
To H. A. Nelson

- *33 PARC = DERNIER ENDROIT POUR PLACER UN HÔPITAL POUR VÉROLÉS, NE PAS PLANTER D'ARBRES EN RANGÉES LE LONG DU CHEMIN, REMBLAYER AVANT DE PLANTER
Source: Olmsted Papers, Reel 56: 557
26 mars 1877,
To H. A. Nelson
Volume VII, pages 313-315, incluant les commentaires des éditeurs

- *34 MONUMENTS NON DÉSIRABLES
Source: Olmsted Papers, Reel 56: 581
28 avril 1877,
To Mount Royal Park Commission
Volume VII, pages 317-318, incluant les commentaires des éditeurs

- *35 NE PAS PRÉSENTER LE PROJET AU PUBLIC EN ÉTÉ
Source: Olmsted Papers, Reel 56: 605
14 juil. 1877,
To H. A. Nelson, private

- *36 CONDITIONS DE SUCCÈS POUR UNE PRÉSENTATION PUBLIQUE TRAITÉ SEMI-SCIENTIFIQUE ET ASSEMBLÉE BIEN CHOISIE, EXEMPLE DE BUFFALO
Source: Olmsted Papers, Reel 56: 616
24 juil. 1877,
To H. A. Nelson. private
Volume VII, pages 328-329, incluant les commentaires des éditeurs

- *37 ANNONCE SOUHAITÉE DE LA PRÉSENTATION
Source: Olmsted Papers, Reel 56: 627
11 sept. 1877,
To H. A. Nelson

- *38 ÉCHEC LAMENTABLE DES DEUX PRÉSENTATIONS EN RAISON
DES CONDITIONS EXÉCRABLES ET DES REPORTAGES ERRONÉS
Source: John C. Olmsted Papers, Loeb Library
7 oct. 1877,
To John Charles Olmsted
Volume VII, pages 333-335, incluant les commentaires des éditeurs

- *39 INTERPRÉTATION DES PLANS ET PRÉSENTATION EN FRANCE
Source: Olmsted Papers, 56: 652
7 nov. 1877,
To H. A. Nelson

- *40 JARDIN BOTANIQUE NON SOUHAITABLE DANS LA MONTAGNE
Source: Olmsted Associates Records, LC, vol. A01: 275
5 fév. 1886,
To William Robb

- *41 JARDIN BOTANIQUE NON SOUHAITABLE DANS LA MONTAGNE
Source: Olmsted Associates Records, LC, vol. A01: 285
20 fév. 1886,
To D.P. Penhallow

- *42 JARDIN BOTANIQUE NON SOUHAITABLE DANS LA MONTAGNE (VARIATION)
Source: Olmsted Papers, Reel 30: 369
[portion within ***** is crossed out]
20 fév. 1886,
To D. P. Penhallow

- *43 JARDIN BOTANIQUE (PARTIES DE LA LETTRE PRÉCÉDENTE À W.R. DONT
LA DIFFUSION EST AUTORISÉE)
Source: Olmsted Associates Records, LC, vol. A01: 299
24 fév. 1886,
To William Robb

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OBSERVATIONS on the TREATMENT OF PUBLIC PLANTATIONS, more especially relating to The Use of the Axe
Frederick Law Olmsted and J. B. Harrison, Boston, T. R. Marvin & Son, Printers, 1889.

OA A#:404-7

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE TREATMENT OF THE RIVER BANK IN CONNEXION WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROAD AND WALK.
OGEE CURVES & ROAD GRADING

Genesee Valley Park

c. 2 août 1889

Olmsted Papers, Library of Congress, microfilm, reel 37, frames 10-12

ADDRESS TO PROSPECT PARK SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION, Frederick Law Olmsted, 1868

REPORT ON CENTRAL PARK KEEPER'S FORCE, Frederick Law Olmsted ,1873

Avis spécifiques du Dr Charles E. Beveridge sur le mont Royal

CHARLES E. BEVERIDGE COMMENTS ON DANIEL CHARTIER: "LA VISION DE
FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED"

Janvier 1995

RESPONSES TO QUERIES ON MY COMMENTS ON DANIEL CHARTIER'S
STUDY

10 mai 1995

FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED'S DESIGN OF SCENIC OVERLOOKS IN PARKS

Dr. Charles E. Beveridge

11 diapositives, copies de plans et photos relatifs à différents belvédères

27 avril 1995

OLMSTED'S TREATMENT OF WATER BODIES IN PARKS

Dr. Charles E. Beveridge

Mai 1995

LE MONT ROYAL DANS L'ŒUVRE DE FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED

Dr. Charles E. Beveridge, traduction de Hélène Thibodeau,

Ville de Montréal, mai 2007

89 pages

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Beveridge, Charles et Rocheleau, Paul
Rizzoli, 1995, 276 pages

FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED AND THE BOSTON PARK SYSTEM
Zaitzevsky, Cynthia,
Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1992, paperback edition,
262 p.

A CLEARING IN THE DISTANCE
FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED AND North America in the Nineteeth Century
Rybczynski, Witold
Harper FlamingoCanada, 480 pages

FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED'S MONT-ROYAL PARK, MONTREAL,
DESIGN AND CONTEXT
Janice Seline
196 pages plus 22 pages d'illustrations 1983,
Thèse à l'université Concordia
9-917-3868, RSN 13570396

LA VISION D'OLMSTED RELATIVE AU MONT ROYAL

LE MONT ROYAL DANS L'OEUVRE DE OLMSTED

Olmsted débute son mandat sur le mont Royal à l'âge d'environ 52 ans. C'est pratiquement 20 ans après le début de ses interventions à Central Park. Le mont Royal est donc d'une oeuvre de maturité comme il le mentionnait dans sa lettre d'engagement

Depuis trente ans, j'étudie l'expérience des autres. J'ai visité quatre fois les exemples comparables en Europe. J'ai pratiquement suivi de façon officielle l'administration de neuf autres en Amérique sans compter plusieurs petits, pour des villes moins prospères que Montréal.

"I have been thirty years engaged in the study of the experience of others; have four times visited, for the purpose, the principal examples of such properties in Europe; and have practically followed, with official opportunities for doing so, the management of nine in America, besides numerous smaller ones, some being for towns of much less wealth than Montreal." p.8

L'ÉVOLUTION DU CONTEXTE D'INTERVENTION

L'état du site avant l'intervention d'Olmsted

Avant de devenir parc, une grande partie du territoire à l'étude servait pour l'agriculture ou de lieu de villégiature pour une partie de l'élite montréalaise. En conséquence, le site avait subi maintes transformations majeures, soit par l'homme même, soit par le bétail qui y était élevé.

La dernière fois que j'ai visité la montagne, j'ai trouvé maints endroits qui, en 1874, apparaissaient rudes et nus et qui s'étaient améliorés simplement parce que le bétail n'y paissait plus.

"when I was last on the mountain, I found many places where no small degree of it already existed, and places, too, which, when I had first studied them in 1874, appeared rude, raw and barren. To what did you owe this improvement? To any digging and bedding; raking, sowing or weeding of a florist? Not at all, but simply and solely to the fact as far as I could judge, that before that time cattle had been ranging over the ground, and afterward it had been protected from them." p.52

Il y a quarante ans, et plus, leur beauté était beaucoup plus grande, à cause de la forêt indigène composée principalement d'épinettes, de pins et de bouleaux, laquelle avait pour effet de prévenir les surfaces contre l'érosion et les glissements de terrain en faisant s'accumuler le sol et supporter sur les parties apprivoisées un sous-bois d'arbustes et de vivaces plus riche et reléguant à l'ombre les endroits moins massifs, fermes et distinctifs. L'Escarpement dans son ensemble apparaissait conséquemment plus large, massif et fort et approchait plus près de la grandeur et de la sublimité d'effet. En même temps, les coloris étaient plus gais et les détails apparaissaient plus intéressants et agréables.

"Forty years ago, and more, their beauty was much greater than at present, because of a native forest growth chiefly of spruces, pines, and birches, which had the effect of checking the tendency of the softer surface to wash and slide, causing soil to accumulate, and support on the tamer parts a richer undergrowth both of shrubs and perennials, and partially veiling in shadow and obscurity that which was less bold, firm, and distinctive. The Crag, as a whole, appeared in consequence, larger, bolder, stronger, and approached more nearly to grandness and sublimity of effect; at the same time their general tone of color was more cheerful, and the impression of detail obtained under close observation more interesting and agreeable." p.45

La méthodologie proposée par Olmsted

Après son engagement, il indique la méthodologie qu'il faudrait suivre pour mettre adéquatement le site en valeur.

Pour la prochaine année, il faut construire d'abord le chemin principal ainsi que un ou plusieurs sentiers qui permettraient de gravir la montagne.

Je préférerais ne finaliser un design pour le sommet qu'après avoir étudié attentivement le site pendant les conditions estivales

1. Je vais fournir avant le 1^{er} mai, un plan montrant les changements requis aux limites de votre propriété, un plan des routes d'accès et des opérations réalisables durant la période de travail de 1875, avec des

"Forecasting your undertaking, I judge that the principal construction work for the next year should be that of a road and of one or more walks by which the mountain can be ascended, and as I much prefer, before maturing a design for laying out the top of the mountain, to have an opportunity of more carefully studying its summer conditions, I make the following propositions:

1st. I will furnish you before the first of May next with a plat showing the changes which I shall recommend to be made in the boundaries of your property, and a plan of approach roads and such other matters as it will, in my judgment, be feasible and desirable for you to operate upon during the working season of 1875; together with such general indications of the main

indications générales concernant les éléments principaux du plan dans son ensemble, tel qu'il sera nécessaire pour permettre un jugement intelligent sur les parties du plan à mûrir.

2 Je vais fournir, par la suite, un plan de l'ensemble du parc à l'échelle un pouce = 100 pieds. Fournir en plus, si les changements de limites proposés sont acceptés, un plan à l'échelle un pouce = 50 pieds pour le territoire du petit parc et pour certaines parties de propriété à vendre, en montrant les rues et les lots.

3 Je rédigerai aussi un rapport expliquant les plans, donnant les justifications des éléments importants et montrant les moyens de les réaliser.

4 Je vais finaliser les plans et le rapport avant le 1^{er} mai 1876 ou auparavant, si besoin est, pour permettre l'inauguration au printemps 1876. Entre temps, je fournirai les services d'architecte paysagiste conseil que je jugerai nécessaire sans frais supplémentaire.

features of a plan for the whole, as will be necessary to the intelligent judgment upon the parts of the plan more fully matured and submitted for your adoption,

2nd. I will subsequently furnish you with a general plan for laying out your whole property on a scale of one hundred feet to the inch; also, if my recommendation as to change of boundary are adopted, with a special plan for the proposed little park district on a scale of fifty feet to the inch; and another for certain parts of the property which you will be recommended to sell, showing proposed streets and lots.

3rd. I will also give you a general report describing and explaining the plans, giving the reasons for the several important features and advice as to the method of carrying them out.

4th. I will deliver all the above plans and the report before the first of May (or before they shall be required with references to the opening of operations in the spring) of 1876, and until I deliver them, will give you such services as advisory Landscape Architect as I deem to be necessary, without special charge."

*3 23th November 1874,
to the Commissioners of Mount Royal Park.

La mauvaise qualité des travaux exécutés

Le Conseil municipal demande qu'Olmsted planifie des aménagements sectoriels et qu'il intègre des équipements spécifiques sans avoir pu développer une vision globale du parc. Cela l'irrite grandement.

Olmsted déplore la qualité des travaux réalisés dans le secteur du Serpentin (Cragfoot), et de ses abords.

La construction de cette route a été faite précipitamment pour satisfaire une urgence d'assistance publique. Je n'ai été informé du fait que ces travaux avaient été entrepris, qu'une fois ceux-ci très avancés. Les circonstances étaient telles qu'il aurait été très difficile de faire attention aux détails. Le sol était couvert d'une épaisse couche de neige, le mercure oscillait régulièrement entre 10 et 20 ° Fahrenheit sous zéro et les vents n'étaient pas modérés. Néanmoins, si la route avait été planifiée purement pour des fins industrielles et pour relier certains points de vue de la montagne, elle aurait difficilement pu être réalisé avec un meilleur jugement et économie. D'un autre côté, il faut reconnaître que s'il avait été désirable de rendre apparent la nudité de ses côtés et de rendre évident que la route était une construction rude et précipitée, faite sans considérations pour les paysages rapprochés et distants, le travail aurait difficilement pu être mieux réalisé.

Il existe des objections majeures à poursuivre tout autre travail à la pièce. S'il y a urgence, je fournirai les lignes directrices qui permettraient d'entreprendre des travaux préliminaires d'excavation sur le chemin principal du sommet. Si vous me fournissez auparavant le plan topographique complet, je me chargerai de préparer les lignes directrices pour le 1^{er} février.

Il semblait y avoir un travail plus approprié à exécuter plus près du pied de la montagne.

"The building of this road, you will recollect, was set about precipitately, to meet an emergency of public charity. I was not informed that it had been undertaken until it was far advanced toward completion. It was prosecuted under circumstances which, had there been an intention to regard landscape details, would have made it very difficult to do so. The situation was bleak, the ground was deeply covered with snow, the mercury was often as low as 10° and sometimes 20° below zero, and the wind often by no means moderate. Nevertheless, had the road been made purely for an industrial purpose, or even as a means of access to, or of connection between, certain points of view upon the mountain, which was quite all that any one concerned had in view, it could hardly have been made with better judgment or economy. On the other hand, it must be recognized that, had it been desirable to display barrenness on its borders, and to make the fact apparent that the road was a rude and hasty construction, made with no regard to those considerations for local and foreground scenery which I sought to explain in the early part of this discourse, the same amount of labor could hardly have been better applied to the object". p.75 et p.76

"I asked Mr Radford to explain to you, if necessary, the great objections which exist to attempting any further patch work in the plan of your park but to say that if there was one urgent public necessity for giving you such an outline as would allow some rough work of excavation to be carried on upon the main drive at the top of the Mountain, and the complete topog. survey could be at once furnished me, I would undertake to do it by the 1st of February. He reported that he had done so and that he thought that you would not require it, as there seemed to be plenty of much better work to be done nearer the base of the mountain."

*10 19th January 1876,
to H. A. Nelson

La nécessité de modifier la structure d'intervention

1 Les dessins, avis écrits, dans et accompagnant mon rapport ainsi que mes instructions écrites et verbales ont pratiquement été perdus de vue et l'analyse que j'ai faite, gaspillée.

2 Si un plan avait été suivi, il diffère radicalement du mien et la plupart des effets que mon design évitait soigneusement ont été poursuivis comme désirables.

3 Le surintendant n'était pas sous les ordres de l'ingénieur, il variait à loisir les instructions, et n'était pas informé des plus importantes instructions que j'avais préparées.

4 L'ingénieur employé occasionnellement, (apparemment pour donner seulement l'implantation et les niveaux du chemin) n'a pas lu mes instructions détaillées, mes dessins de détail et décline toute responsabilité sur les erreurs qu'il n'avait pas le pouvoir de prévenir

5 Ni le surintendant, ni l'ingénieur ou le secrétaire n'étaient capables de référer à mes dessins et instructions, deux documents particulièrement recherchés n'ont pu être retrouvés et j'ai été informé qu'il me fallait les reproduire.

6 Ces responsabilités mal définies et l'insubordination ont fait que la route a requis beaucoup plus de matériaux coûteux que si un plan bien pensé avait été suivi.

"1st That in what has thus far been done the drawings and the written advice given in and accompanying my report to your Board and the extended written and verbal instructions given your Engineer have been practically lost sight of and all the study which I had given to them wasted.

2^d That so far as any comprehensive plan has been had in the work done, it is one of a radically different character from that which I supplied you, the great majority of the objects I had studied to effect being carefully avoided & the results which I studied to avoid being in many instances pursued as if desirable.

3rd the superintendent of the work who was not under the orders of the Engineer and who varied at pleasure from his advice did not during the progress of the work ever see my report to you, nor had he been informed in any manner of the most essential instructions which I had prepared for the work.

4th The engineer occasionally employed, (apparently only to indicate the general course of the road & give levels), never read my detailed instructions, never saw the detailed drawings & denied all responsibility for the plan which was followed, many of the simply engineering errors of which he was nevertheless aware of but had no power to prevent.

5th Neither the Superintendent nor the Engineer nor again your secretary was able to refer when required to my drawings or written instructions, or to copies of them nor upon search were they to be found distinctly in the custody of any one of them; two papers among them being particularly called for could not be found and I am informed that it is necessary that I should reproduce them.

6th You have principally as the result of the undefined responsibilities and insubordination which these facts exemplify, a road such as, (the lowest & the highest point being given & the maximum grade being fixed) any boy who had been a year with a surveying party might have laid out & any intelligent farmer might

have constructed, in which a great deal of costly material has been unnecessarily used and which nevertheless will require you to obtain from other sources a much larger amount of this same material than if any well considered plan had been followed would have been necessary.

La beauté dont vous pouvez bénéficier résulte non pas de votre travail, mais subsiste plutôt en dépit de celui-ci. L'opportunité de faire un chemin attrayant pour gravir la montagne a été perdue à jamais. N'importe quel débutant de ma profession aurait honte des résultats. Aussi, le tort que vous m'avez causé par un aussi piètre travail ne peut être compensé. Cela aurait pu être évité si quelqu'un de moindrement qualifié et influencé par une responsabilité professionnelle avait dirigé les travaux.

Whatever beauty you enjoy in going over it exists simply in spite of the work that has been done, not in the least because of it--and opportunity of making such an attractive way up the mountain as I had designed, has been lost forever.

The injury which I must inevitably suffer from being supposed to be the designer of a work of which any tyro in my profession would be ashamed, and for which it is wholly out of your power to make me a compensation, could never have occurred had the work been under the Superintendence, as you had led me to understand that it would be, of a man, however little qualified by previous training for it, who would be influenced in the least degree by a sense of professional responsibility in the matter."

*21 6th June 1876,
to H.A. Nelson

Suite à ces constatations désolantes, il propose la méthode de travail suivante.

1 Ne débuter aucune construction avant que l'architecte paysagiste n'ait eu le temps de faire rapport sur le sujet et que la commission n'ait accepté ou rejeté les plans et recommandations

"1st That no construction shall be ordered or authorized until after the Landscape Architect has had opportunity to report on it and his plans or recommendations have been distinctly adopted or distinctly rejected by the Commission.

2 Engager un ingénieur à qui les plans et instructions de l'architecte paysagiste seraient donnés et qui assurerait la conformité de l'exécution des travaux avec les plans

2^d That an Engineer shall be appointed, to whom the adopted general plans and approved instructions of the Landscape Architect shall be given and who shall have such control over the work that he may secure conformity to the plans in its progress.

3 Transmettre les ordres de la Commission relatifs aux travaux à et par l'ingénieur. Transmettre les ordres relatifs à la police et à l'entretien directement au

3^d That all orders of the Commission relating to construction work shall be issued to and through the Engineer [orders relating to police & maintenance work going directly to the Superintendent].

surintendant.

4 Transmettre à l'architecte paysagiste copie de tous les ordres de la Commission relatifs à la construction.

5 Pour tout détail non défini dans les plans adoptés par la Commission, l'ingénieur doit consulter et agir suivant les instructions de l'architecte paysagiste.

6 Que les modifications aux plans généraux adoptés par la Commission, que l'ingénieur juge justifiées en raison des conditions topographiques qui n'apparaissent pas sur le relevé topographique, soient transmises à l'architecte paysagiste. Si approuvées par celui-ci, elles seront mises en oeuvre à moins qu'une augmentation des coûts n'en résulte, auquel cas les changements devront être approuvés par la Commission.

Ne pas compléter la route requise autour du réservoir avant que celui-ci n'ait été complété car tout changement au plan du réservoir aurait pour effet de rendre le tracé du chemin non approprié. Sans réservoir, j'aurais recommandé un tracé différent pour la route.

4th That copies of all orders of the Commission relating to construction shall be furnished to the Landscape Architect.

5th That as to matters of detail not defined by the general plans as adopted by the Commission the Engineer shall consult with and proceed under the instructions of the Landscape Architect.

6th That as to deviations of detail from the general plans adopted by the Commission, which may be found by the Engineer to be desirable on account of conditions of topography not shown on the topographical map, he shall submit suggestions to the Landscape Architect. If approved by him the work shall proceed in accordance with such modifications except when they are of such a character that the cost of the work would be materially affected by them, in which case they shall first be submitted to and acted on by the Commission."

*21 6th June 1876,
to H. A. Nelson

"I strongly recommend a delay in the location of the line of road which will be needed to connect that already stoned and that, the working plans of which have been since determined, until such time as the construction of the reservoir should have been ordered beyond recall and on definite working plans. Any change that may be found necessary in the plan of the reservoir would involve a change in the location of the road, and if by any possibility the reservoir should not be built, or its location materially changed, the location, as proposed, of the road would be very bad indeed. The two matters cannot be planned and should not be build apart. Were it not for the reservoir, I should recommend a very different location of the road.

*26 25th September 1876,
to H.A. Nelson

La section du chemin des calèches montrée au plan de design de 1877 entourant le réservoir en forme de trèfle n'a pas été réalisée. À la place, on retrouve encore le chemin qui menait du chemin de la Côte-des-Neiges à la maison Smith.

L'échec de la présentation publique du projet

Mes lectures furent un échec risible comme façon de sensibiliser les citoyens. Les commissaires ne pensaient apparemment qu'à dépenser le moins possible. Aussi ils ont réservé la salle, à trois heures de l'après-midi parce que le prix était moitié moindre. Des invitations ne furent envoyées qu'aux seuls officiels de la ville et du conseil. Aucune publicité n'a été commandée, des éditeurs ont seulement été demandés pour informer le public. Le hall pouvait accueillir 1200 personnes. Quand Norton et moi sommes arrivés dans la salle, le plancher venait d'être lavé, il faisait noir, humide et froid. Il n'y avait que trois commissaires, madame Nelson, une autre dame, l'ingénieur Amsley, et quatre hommes qui me sont inconnus. Aucun autre membre du gouvernement municipal, ni le maire, ni aucun autre commissaire.

Après une demi-heure, l'audience augmente à 30 ou 40 personnes dont 5 reporters. Je lis mon premier document. Le lendemain, seulement cinq lignes, l'une disant que la montagne est un site malheureux. Deux autres traitent du même sujet de façon aussi erronée et absurde. Le lendemain, l'audience est

"My lectures were a farcical failure as far as reaching the people is concerned. The Commissioners thought apparently of nothing but how they could get out the business without incurring expense for which they had no funds. They took the hall at 3 p.m. because it could be had at half price; sent invitations only to the city officials, Common Council &c.; bid no advertising but only requested editors to inform the public. The hall was a large & fine one with seating for 1200. When Norton & I went into it at the hour fixed, the floor had just been washed & it was dark, damp & cold. There were present 3 commissioners, Mrs Nelson & another lady; Ansley, the Engineer and four men whom I did not know; no other member of the city gov^t nor did the mayor or commissioner of Health or any others come at all. In the course of half an hour the audience increased to 30 or 40. There were 5 reporters. I read my first paper. Of the reports, one had five lines saying that I thought the mountain an unfortunate site, another about the same with---different & equally absurd misstatement. Another had reserved a column for it & filled it up with very injudicious & misprinted selections from my MS. The next day I had a little better & a much more intelligent audience, including Principal Dawson of McGill College &c. & was thanked & complimented, but not one of the papers referred to the lecture or the plan. But it is to go to the City Hall & the lectures are to be printed."

*38 7th October 1877
to John Charles Olmsted

meilleure et plus intelligente, incluant le principal Dawson du collège McGill. Aucun article de journal ne parle de la conférence ou du plan. Cela va aller à l'Hôtel de Ville et les lectures seront imprimées.

La Ville de Montréal n'édita pas ce texte. Olmsted, en fit plutôt éditer une version révisée, en 1881, chez Puttnam's.

La nature du texte de 1881

Le texte de 1881 est un texte majeur de l'oeuvre d'Olmsted comme le démontre la citation suivante.

.....

Le second document, un pamphlet sur le mont Royal, publié en 1881, consiste premièrement en un plaidoyer d'Olmsted à ses clients canadiens pour qu'ils suivent son plan et qu'ils ne gaspillent pas la montagne avec des améliorations incongrues. À partir de là, il développe ce qui est probablement son énoncé le plus complet sur l'architecture de paysage comme art. Dans les dernières pages, il décrit comme exemple d'objectif ultime d'un tel art, l'influence reposante, apaisante, rafraîchissante sur une invalide hypothétique qui serait conduit en calèche au sommet du Mont Royal. Les perspectives qui s'ouvrent à elle, niveau après niveau, séquence après séquence, sont évoquées presque magiquement dans ces lignes, peut-être le passage descriptif le plus vivant qu'il ait jamais écrit.

"The second paper, a pamphlet on Mount Royal published in 1881, consists primarily of Olmsted's plea to his Canadian clients to follow through with his plan and not spoils their mountain by mistaken improvements; from this develops what is probably his fullest statement about landscape architecture as an art. In the final pages, he describes, as an example of the ultimate aim of such art, the "restful soothing and refreshing influence" of mountain scenery on an hypothetical invalid being brought by carriage to the top of Mount Royal. The prospects that open up before her, level by level and sequence by sequence, are almost magically evoked in these lines- perhaps the most vivid descriptive passage Olmsted ever wrote." p. 74

1982

FLO and the Boston Park System, Cynthia Zaitzevsky

J'ai lu deux textes suite au dépôt du plan de 1877. L'un touche les principes généraux de design pour les travaux du type en cours et montrant le caractère puérole, extravagant et destructeur de propositions qui contreviennent à ces principes. L'autre texte touche l'application de ces principes aux conditions particulières du site en relation avec la population à desservir.

Le sens du texte de 1881 ressemble énormément à la description qu'il fait de ces deux lectures.

Le texte de 1881 contient quelques longues démonstrations par l'absurde. Olmsted y démontre les qualités relatives de certains objectifs, puis fait ensuite ressortir leurs déficiences par rapport à des objectifs plus élevés, prouvant ainsi la supériorité de ses principes et propositions. Les principales tournures de ce type se trouvent entre les pages 16 à 18 et entre les pages 32 et 34. Dans un cas même, il n'est pas évident de savoir s'il est en accord ou en désaccord avec les principes énoncés. Ces tournures compliquées ont généré maintes interprétations erronées. Nombreux sont ceux qui, en ont fait une interprétation erronée. Ces textes sont extrêmement difficiles à citer parce que des subtiles nuances sont étalées sur de nombreuses propositions subordonnées.

"I agreed that I would read before a public meeting to be called by the commissioners, two papers, one discussing general principles of design for works of the kind in hand, and showing the puerile, extravagant, and wasteful character of much that had been proposed in contravention of these principles; the other, their application to the particular conditions of the site to be dealt with and the population to be served." p.5

Lors de l'édition du texte de 1881, Olmsted n'était plus en communication avec Montréal depuis deux ans. Il n'a appris le changement complet d'administration du parc qu'après l'impression. Il ignore les motifs de ce changement et n'a pas eu l'intention de toucher aucune personne ou sujet.

"When they were printed I had been in communication with no one in Montreal for upward of two years, and it is only since that I am informed of an entire change in the managing board of the property. I am yet ignorant of the motives of the change, and if what I have written touches any question of recent public discussion, or bears at all upon the present purposes or projects of any parties or persons, it is not of my intention."

Preface 1881

LA VISION D'OLMSTED RELATIVE AU MONT ROYAL

LES PRINCIPES GÉNÉRAUX D'AMÉNAGEMENT

La vision à long terme

Rien ne constitue un aussi grand gaspillage que le travail précipité, réalisé sans référence au design global. Ne rien entreprendre qui ne soit requis au plan. Plutôt payer les employés à ne rien faire qu'à faire des choses non spécifiées. Dans le présent contexte, contrairement à des ouvrages d'architecture et d'ingénierie, le mauvais travail détruit pour toujours l'opportunité de bien faire.

"Nothing can be so wasteful as precipitate work--work done without the most careful study with reference to the whole design. Your engineer should not allow a day's work to be done without his inspection and knowledge that it is required by the plan and it will be far better to pay your men wages to do nothing than to work without a plan or away from a plan. In such work as this, misdirected work is much more costly than it is on buildings or streets or engineering works because on these bad work can be pulled down and good substituted. Here bad work destroys for ever the opportunity for good."

*21 6th January 1876,
to H. A. Nelson

Les travaux d'amélioration aux égouts, à l'éclairage et à l'adduction d'eau donnent un profit immédiat, facile à mesurer, à planifier et à comprendre. L'encadrement de ces travaux par des comités du Conseil est sûr, économique et efficace, à quelques exceptions près.

"The best results of sewer, pavement, lighting and water supply improvements are demonstrated the moment the expenditure required for them has been made. Their profit is simple, direct and may in a great degree be so measured and stated in advance as to be readily comprehended. Each step in the progress of construction has a comparatively direct and intelligible bearing on the promised result. Hence with rare exceptions the practice of managing them through Common Council Committees is as safe, conservative, economical and efficient as any that has yet been tried.

En général, les améliorations aux parcs sont différentes, elles ne semblent pas donner de résultats aussi immédiats (sérieux ?).

Park improvements are of a wholly different class. They do not look to the immediate relief of tangible, serious and generally felt public inconveniences. Public opinion cannot, therefore, act in the same manner upon those having them in charge as in the case of other works for the public benefit. There may or may not be some immediately valuable results of the work as it advances, appreciable by the general public, but whether there are or not such results are the last and least that should be considered in laying them out. They can by no possibility ever furnish a sound justification for

the required expenditure and if the disposition of ignorant and inconsiderate critics to look upon them in that light is in the least encouraged or the right of any man to judge them in this manner admitted, the administration will necessarily be condemned and come to grief.

Avec une gestion valable, après un an ou deux, la réelle valeur des améliorations commencera à se développer, puis, par la suite, augmentera de plus en plus rapidement pour une période d'au moins 50 ans. L'argent ainsi investi sera bien dépensé alors que l'argent mis pour la gratification immédiate du public est, presque à coup sur, de l'argent gaspillé.

With sound management after a year or two the real purport and value of the improvements will begin to develop and will thereafter increase at a rapidly advancing rate of augmentation for a period of at least fifty years. Money cautiously spent for such a result is likely to be well spent. Money spent for the immediate gratification of the public is almost sure to be extravagantly spent."

*27 28th September 1876 ,
To H.A. Nelson.

Planifier non seulement pour nos contemporains mais aussi pour les générations à venir. Avant que la première plantation que j'ai planifiée n'ait atteint sa pleine croissance, les gens des générations suivantes atteindront le million.

"For example, I just now referred to your heirs, which to some may have seemed superfluous; but with a little reflection it will be apparent that the property could not have been justly purchased with regard only for the profit to be got from it by a few thousands of the generation ordering it; and that I was bound, in suggesting a plan, to have in view the interests of those to inherit it as well as yours; and to bear in mind that, before the first planting of the plantations which I was to outline should reach their full growth, these inheritors would begin to be counted not by the thousand but by the million;" p.2

La nécessité d'une idée directrice forte

Sans principes, aucune beauté réelle ne peut être atteinte.

« Que la première loi d'un tableau sur la toile et d'un tableau sur le sol est d'être un tout »;

Édouard André, L'art des jardins, traité général de la composition des Parcs et jardins
On peut trouver une référence au parc du Mont-Royal dans ce livre à la page 384

"Without principles, no true beauty can be attained."

"The first law of a good design is that it shall be a whole."---André.

Preface 1881

"The first law of a work of art, either on canvas or on the earth, is to be a whole."---André, L'Art des Jardins, p. 119. Olmsted p.43

Offrir une variété contrôlée d'expériences subordonnées à

"In works of art which the experience of the world has stamped of a high grade of value, there is found a

une idée directrice forte comme dans toute oeuvre d'art de grande qualité. La première assure l'unité et l'harmonie alors que les autres offrent une variété contrôlée.

strong single purpose, with a variety of subordinate purposes so worked out and working together that the main purpose is the better served because of the diversity of these subordinate purposes. The first secures the quality of unity and harmony; the others, that of a controlled variety.

Une véritable gestion d'affaires recherchera l'augmentation de la valeur de votre propriété par cette méthode. La fausse économie pensera que c'est impraticable ou trop compliqué de compter les coûts et les pertes.

Sound business management will surely seek to gain value for your property by making use of the same double method. False economy will think it impracticable, or of no consequence, or that it will make too much trouble; failing to count the cost and losses of what it assumes to be of less trouble." p.42

Ne pas gaspiller d'argent pour réaliser des interventions qui iraient à l'encontre d'une idée directrice bien ciblée.

"Without constant reference to a fixed leading purpose, you can not spend a dollar on the mountain with any assurance that it is not wasted. If your leading purpose is trivial, or of but temporary consequence, you have already spent more than you can afford upon it. It is childish to go further. Every dollar you appropriate will be a dollar more of inexcusable extravagance." p.16

La création d'une véritable oeuvre d'art, le meilleur investissement

De très nombreuses citations touchant l'art se retrouvent dans d'autres chapitres. Particulièrement pour dire que la vraie économie est de créer une oeuvre d'art, pour expliquer l'idée directrice ou dans le cadre de ses directives sur les éléments construits.

L'art est Nature
Shakespeare.

"The art itself is Nature."---Shakespeare.

préface 1881

"In short, it is not to be denied that you cheated yourselves when you bought the mountain for a park, unless you were prepared to have it managed on principles applicable to WORKS OF ART." p.27

Appliquer les principes régissant les oeuvres d'art.

Considérer qu'un parc n'est pas simplement la juxtaposition d'éléments fonctionnels ou même esthétiques. Il devrait avoir la cohérence et la force d'une véritable oeuvre d'art.

Inscrire tout geste, même le plus humble dans le sens de la création ou de l'entretien d'une oeuvre d'art.

"This may seem a contradiction of terms. It is not. When an artist puts a stick in the ground, and nature in time makes it a tree, art and nature are not to be seen apart in the result.

In verses called out by an enjoyment of a brawling stream under trees, the ploughboy begs for the planting of more trees, that the poetic charm by which he has been inspired may be deepened by art.*

Une oeuvre d'art ne s'évalue pas simplement à la valeur des matériaux et de la main d'oeuvre. L'art véritable verra sa valeur augmenter siècle après siècle.

But third, as to the economy of art. You know that the market-value of a literary work of art (the psalms of David, the novels of Scott, the idylls of Tennyson) does not depend on the amount of paper and ink used in them; that a work of the painter's art is not valued by counting the cost of the canvas, pigments, and day's labor which has been spent on it, or a statue by the cost of the marble and its cutting. You know also that of the works of two men, given the same subject to draw, paint, or carve, one representing no more school-knowledge, industry, faithfulness, or hand-labor, only higher art, will sell at once for ten times as much as the other, and that this difference in market value instead of lessening will increase century after century.***" p.30

Créer une oeuvre d'art consiste à assigner à chaque herbe la position appropriée de façon à renforcer le caractère de l'oeuvre.

"Every herb ... has its peculiar habitation ... The highest art is that which ... assigns it its proper position and by means of it enhances and enforces the great impression." - Ruskin; Preface, ad ed. Mod. Painters. p.44

L'essentiel de l'argumentation réside dans quelque chose dont la puissance dépasserait ce que peut évoquer un écrivain reconnu et auquel même le plus grand peintre paysagiste ne peut rendre justice.

"But in truth, the heart of the argument lies in something which it would be beyond the power of even a gifted writer to represent, and to which not the greatest of landscape painters could nearly do justice." p.63

A park is a work of art, designed to produce certain effects upon the mind of men. There should be nothing in it absolutely nothing, --- not a foot of surface nor a spear of grass--- which does not represent study, design, a sacious consideration & application of known laws of cause & effect with reference to that end. Address to Prospect Park Scientific Association, 1868

"... every foot of the Park's surface, every tree and bush, as well as, every arch, roadway and walk has been fixed where it is with a purpose, and upon its being so used that it may continue to serve that purpose to the best advantage, and upon its not being otherwise used, depends its value." Report on

Central Park Keeper's Force, 1873

Olmsted a marqué les grandes villes nord américaines non seulement pour ses écrits mais aussi pour la force, la cohérence, la qualité artistique de certains des paysages qu'il a créés.

Le respect du "Genus Loci"

Faire de ce lieu autre chose qu'une montagne serait un gaspillage. Éviter les caprices, modes et interventions qui peuvent être faites ailleurs, car elles contreviennent à l'impression de dignité, sérénité et force de la montagne. Conserver une unité ne veut pas dire uniformité ou morosité.

"You have chosen to take a mountain for your park, but, in truth, a mountain barely worthy of the name. You would call it a hill if it stood a few miles further away from the broad, flat, river valley. Its scenery, that is to say, is but relatively mountainous. Yet, whatever of special adaptation it has to your purpose lies in that relative quality. It would be wasteful to try to make any thing else than a mountain of it; equally wasteful to attempt any thing which would involve a loss of such advantages as it has for this purpose. No condition of economical management, then, is more stringently binding than that of a steady resistance to all short-sighted aims which would result in such waste, or lead to conditions inconsistent with mountain dignity, serenity, and strength. Fancies, fashions, and affectations, for which room might be temporarily allowed on another site, should have no place. But this unity involves neither sameness nor sombreness. The queen is not less queenly for jewels on her head, ermine on her shoulders, and velvet in her skirts." p.42

Si une ville possède un large terrain plat non boisé, il est possible de faciliter la tenue d'une série d'activités, terrain de parade, de crosse, de cricket, de tir-à-l'arc, de tennis ou de croquet, sans hypothéquer les autres buts d'un parc. Desservir les intérêts de la communauté entière avec les motivations récréatives spéciales de classes particulières.

"So, as to the site for a park. If a city has a large area of level prairie it can, without excluding or cramping provisions for other park purposes, provide great breadths of tranquil scenery with parade, lacrosse, cricket, archery, tennis, and croquet grounds, all in excellent fashion at small cost, the landscape motives, and others in which the whole community has a direct interest, harmonizing with the special motives of recreation of particular classes.*

Tenter de créer des paysages pittoresques là où on trouve des abrupts serait, sinon impossible, puéril et ridiculement extravagant

But any attempt to form picturesque scenery through abrupt variations of surface, not to be puerile in its results, will be costly and to aim at having an outlook comparable with that you have already obtained on the mountain will be, if not impossible, ridiculously extravagant.**

À New York, la proportion des personnes qui, en été, viennent pour des types particuliers de récréation, ne représente pas un dans plusieurs centaines par rapport aux autres usagers qui viennent simplement marcher ou se promener à cheval ou en calèche.

* In the New York park the number of people who come in summer for special forms of recreation is not one in several hundred of those who come for walking, riding, driving, and the enjoyment of the scenery in a broad way, and this, I believe, is true of all well-ordered parks." p.19

Ne pas réaliser certaines "améliorations" habituelles aux parcs situés ailleurs.

"Again, at the moment I first put foot on the ground, I pointed out the difficulty, danger and extravagance which would result if certain suggested "improvements", common in parks elsewhere, but by no means essential to the more important purpose of them, should be attempted on the mountain;" p.9

Éviter le style de jardinage habituel, car il s'avère incompatible avec le caractère de la montagne

"... and finally to avoid in these and all respects an ordinary conventional gardening style of work, as finical, unseemly and out of character with the genius of the place."

*2 21st November 1874,
to the Commissioners of Mount Royal Park

La prévalence des intérêts collectifs

Ne confier aucune portion du parc à un club, à une association. N'exclure le public en général qu'avec circonspection, car au fil des ans et des concessions sur plusieurs sites, *il s'avère que* cela risquerait de susciter des jalousies et des contrariétés.

Excuse me for suggesting that the grant of rights to any portion of a public park to any club or association, to the exclusion of the public in general should be made with caution, as in course of time many applications for similar concessions are likely to be made on more or less plausible grounds and jealousies and animosities and embarrassments are liable to result"

*17 29th April 1876,
to H. A. Nelson

Ne pas favoriser de petits groupes de citoyens au détriment de la collectivité.

"I did not wait for the hard times to urge that all manner of superfluities, and all propositions based on a consideration of particular interests of portions of the community independently of all, should be left out

of view." p.9

Prendre un soin particulier des gens de santé précaire et vous desservirez aussi les gens robustes et en santé.

"It is not the stronger but the weaker links of a chain that you must consider in determining what strain you will put upon it. Fit your work on the mountain to over-weighted nervous conditions and you may be sure that it will suit the robust and light-hearted". p.59

Éviter de mettre l'emphase sur les calèches décorées et les gens habillés somptueusement sous peine de faire paraître la nature ordinaire de la montagne, discordante, terne et lugubre.

"It is true, moreover, that when the mountain is suitably fitted for public use and traversed by gaily-dressed throngs of ladies and children, polished carriages, and highly groomed and caparisoned horses, that much of its original nature will appear comparatively rude, harsh, incongruous, and dreary.

Ne pas abandonner votre but mais éviter toute proposition non concordante avec l'insertion de vos objectifs d'usage populaire dans le travail séculaire de la nature.

What follows? Surely not that you should abandon your purpose; surely not that the more money you spend on improvements the less value for your purpose the mountain will have.

It follows only that all that you have seen and admired of the old work of nature must be considered as simply suggestive of what (that is practicable, suitable, and harmonious with your purposes of large popular use) nature, wisely entreated, will give you in place of what must be abandoned." p.26

Accomplir cette transition habilement et gracieusement requiert un exercice de jugement et de goût rarement poursuivi par des objectifs commerciaux.

"To accomplish this transition skilfully and gracefully requires, it must be admitted, an exercise of judgment and taste in a direction not often followed with commercial purposes." p.27

La vie d'Olmsted a été marquée par une suite d'affrontements avec des clientèles particulières généralement bien nanties parce qu'il s'opposait avec fermeté à certaines de leurs velléités.

LES PRINCIPES DIRECTEURS

Le charme des paysages naturels

Améliorer le charme des paysages naturels devrait motiver tout aménagement réalisé au mont Royal. Ce principe est le meilleur qui soit pour améliorer la valeur thérapeutique du parc pour les citoyens. Le charme nous transforme sans que nous sachions pourquoi. Il nous aide à devenir poètes.

"This is simply a fact. If we want to go behind the fact - from the physician to the metaphysician - we must begin by reflecting that a charm is something that acts, we know not how, to make us in some way different from what we should otherwise be; that is, it acts otherwise than through our reason.

This is the primary superstitious idea of a charm - of what is charming. We can apply the term rationally to scenery only because of a common experience that certain scenery has a tendency to lift us out of our habitual condition into one which, were the influence upon us stronger and the moods and frames of mind toward which it carried us more distinctly defined, we should recognize as poetic. Let us say that for the time being the charm of natural scenery tends to make us poets." p.22

Les futaies étaient les premiers temples. Bryant

"The groves were God's first temple."---Bryant.

Le travail de l'homme génère la beauté s'il est en harmonie avec la Nature et la laideur s'il est discordant. William Morris

"For, and this is at the root of the matter, everything made by man's hands has a form which must be beautiful or ugly: beautiful, if it is in accord with Nature and helps her; ugly, if it is discordant with Nature and thwarts her."---William Morris.

Travailler le paysage simplement sans combinaisons dans le but d'atteindre l'idéal de beauté qu'il recèle sera toujours le plus puissant chemin vers le cœur. Ruskin

"The simple and uncombined landscape, if wrought out with due attention to the ideal beauty of the features it includes, will always be most powerful in its appeal to the heart"---Ruskin.

Préface 1881

Le mont Royal présente une opportunité exceptionnelle de créer une forme spéciale de santé pour une large communauté.

Ideas like those expressed opposite have long had considerable currency. If they are of any practical value, the Mount Royal property gives a rare opportunity of turning them to business account in a special form of wealth for all of a large community. I have aimed to show in the following pages what has hitherto been in the way of it.

Préface 1881

Dans cette préface, après des citations de grands auteurs, Olmsted insiste subtilement sur le rendement économique résultant de l'application de sa vision poétique de la nature.

Valoriser les paysages poétiques est la clef d'une gestion vraiment économique de la montagne.

"What I ask you to accept as the true key to economy on the mountain is the clear sense that by the degree in which people, while resorting to it, will be subject to the bracing, soothing, tranquilizing medication of poetical scenery, in that degree will it be valuable, and your investment in it profitable. In so far as the management fails to constantly serve that end; in so far, especially, as it runs counter to it, you must judge those responsible for it as you would judge those responsible for leaky sewers and wasting aqueducts.

Planifier simplement en référence à l'air et à l'exercice sans tenir compte de l'effet tranquilisant des paysages poétiques serait comme transmettre des connaissances sans éduquer, punir sans prévenir le crime. Faire autrement serait agir de façon non économique parce que les bénéfices ne seraient pas optimisés.

Determine your attractions simply with reference to air and exercise instead of to this purpose, and your park will be like a school which provides instruction, but not education; a police which aims at the punishment, not the prevention of crime; a church aiming at a moral, but not a religious character.

Yet it may be as well to consider that if you secure this all else will be added. The air will not be fouled by that which gives poetic charm to the scenery, nor will exercise in it be enervating." p.25

Réaliser que les avantages de la montagne ne sont pas simplement la salubrité mais aussi l'éducation et l'effet civilisateur permettant de contrebalancer les mauvaises influences de la ville.

"Yet if you have kindly let your imagination aid me you can hardly fail to see wherein the advantage of the property lies, not simply in the direction in which I have been pointing, as a sanitary influence, but also as an educative and civilizing agency, standing in winning competition against the sordid and corrupting temptations of the town." p.63

La succession des mises en scène

Même si la montagne est petite, elle offre une variété intéressante de paysages. Concevoir l'aménagement du mont Royal comme une série d'ambiances découvertes au gré des différents cheminements.

Favoriser la découverte progressive de la montagne au milieu ambiances tantôt forestière, tantôt pastorale. Intégrer des éléments naturels ou construits en soutient à cette séquence forte de huit districts topographiques.

Les mises en scènes proposées sont décrites après la gestion du site et les éléments de design.

"Small as your mountain is, it presents in different parts no little variety of mountain form and feature. A leading economy in its management will be found to lie in turning to still better account this consistent diversity, so that the visitor in passing out of one part into another, will receive a stronger impression and be more charmed than he would with greater sameness.

In a separate map appended to the general plan furnished you, I have designated eight topographical divisions of the mountain, each possessing natural characteristics distinguishing it from those adjoining. In the selection and development of the choicer distinctive peculiarities of these several divisions, the exhibition of them to the best advantage, and the merging of them harmoniously together in one consistent beautiful mountain, the highest economy will be found." p.43

LA GESTION DU SITE

Le respect intégral des fondements de sa vision

Ne pas gaspiller les avantages uniques de ce site avec des dépenses inappropriées.

... "I am always thinking of it and lamenting that I had anything to do with it without more assurance that its unique advantages would not be lost through a delusive respect for standards of value set by lavish expenditure in the public grounds of cities less favored".

*40 5th February 1886,
to Willam Robb

Mal utiliser ce site, en faire un jardin botanique par exemple, détruirait la possibilité d'en faire un des lieux publics les plus raffinés au monde.

" The opportunity of ever attaining such a treasure is most liable to be inadvertently dissipated by misuse of the ground. The purposes associated by many persons with the term Botanic Garden are as unsuitable to the Mountain and as antagonistic to those of a provident plan for dealing with it as any that could be named."

*41 et 42 20th February 1886,
to D.P. Penhallow,

Director of the Botanic Garden;

Réaliser toute solution autre que la sienne serait un mauvais investissement. Celle-ci génère le bénéfice social et physique maximum pour un minimum d'investissement grâce à une utilisation adéquate du potentiel du lieu.

"The truth is that with no shrewder purpose than the proposition I have stated represents, not half the dividends which the property may be profitably made to yield, will be attainable." p.18

Respecter intégralement la vision qu'il propose, de la même façon que les plans et indications données par Le Nôtre à Dijon, sont encore suivies plusieurs siècles plus tard.

"About the time that certain Frenchmen were laying out the first street of Montreal, a court comrade whom they had left behind, a distinguished man of my profession, André Le Notre by name, was laying out roads and walks, defining plantations, selecting trees, fixing the form and position of seats, and otherwise determining the character and quality of a park at Dijon, the capital of ancient Burgundy, and of the present Côte d'Or.

Après sept générations, ce respect a préservé la valeur de cette réalisation d'un grand maître.

Since I was last in Montreal I have made a pilgrimage to this ground (long ago acquired by the town), and found the superintendent of it still scrupulously following the plans prepared more than two hundred years ago by Le Notre, and the motives by which he was led, and the pictures which he had conceived, much better realized than they could have been while he was yet living. The roads, the walks, the verdant carpets, the leafy vistas---in none of these had the original work lost, or even ceased to gain, value; and I saw children of the seventh generation in direct descent from those whom Le Notre. p.2

Ceci dit, il se considérait comme le concepteur d'un scénario qui permettrait ultérieurement à un Shakespeare de réaliser un chef d'oeuvre avec ce parc.

" My duty I conceive to have been to supply the main plot or arrangement the theme of the work to be afterward composed. Shakespeare was not above giving his best powers to works thus laid out by inferior men - his predecessors." p.13

La constance de l'équipe et du travail

J'ai averti les commissaires quand, au départ, ils sont venus me voir à New York, que tout "plan" que je leur fournirais serait du "papier gaspillé" s'il n'était pas suivi par un travail continu de design en détail par des hommes gouvernés par les principes

"I advised your commissioners, when they first came to me in New York, that any "plan" I could furnish them would be "waste paper" if it were not to be followed up by a continuous work of design in detail by men imbued with its leading motives, trained and firmly required to steadily pursue them under contingent circumstances, and with reputations of value at stake in the permanent results of their work."

directeurs, entraînés et fermement p.13
déterminés à les poursuivre en
toutes circonstances, en enjeu une
réputation de valeur, comme
résultat de leur travail.

Comme le plan topographique que
vous m'avez fourni n'indique que
les variations de niveau de cinq ou
même de dix pieds, j'ai élaboré un
design général. En conséquence,
ne pas suivre le plan de façon
servile, mais en comprenant les
raisons pour chaque courbe de
chemin ou de sentier. Étudier
comment améliorer le design et
éviter du travail inutile en tirant
parti des avantages subtils du
terrain.

"In respect to your inquiry you know that the
topographical map furnished me takes no account of
differences of elevation at any point of less than five
feet and in many parts of none less than ten nor are
its lines of elevation to be assumed perfectly correct.
It answers the purpose which I have undertaken of
determining a general design but in laying out the
plan on the ground you would probably waste much
labor if you proceeded without regard to minor
variations of surface and also sacrifice advantages
slight in each case but large in the aggregate. Your
engineer therefore should not follow the plan in a
servile way, but understanding the reasons for and
object of each curve of the roads and walks, study
how the design may be improved in detail and labor
saved in construction."

*39 7th November 1877,
to H.A. Nelson

Pour procéder économiquement,
créer une équipe restreinte dont
les membres seraient entraînés
pour devenir des experts dans des
domaines différents.

"To proceed economically, you need to have a small
staff of men who are, or who can be trained to be,
experts in three or four main divisions of the required
service, and, recollect that if these men are well
chosen, their value is to increase with every year's
additional special experience in the locality, and that
their work is to be continuous work, the value of what
they do in one year being relative to what, in doing it,
they have intended to do and may do the following
year.

Permettre à chacune de ces
personnes clefs de prendre en des
responsabilités dans son domaine.
Par conséquent, générer un effort
zélé et continu ainsi qu'une fierté
et un plaisir devant les résultats en
constante amélioration.

These leading men of the work should be under such
supervision and discipline as to insure the
subordination of all they do the general ends of the
plan, but they should also be allowed, each man
within his own field, that measure of discretion which
is necessary to induce zealous, continuous effort,
and pride and pleasure in its gradually accruing
results.

Assurer constamment une telle équipe de travail minimale est plus efficace que procéder irrégulièrement, par à coups. Ceci n'empêche toutefois pas d'allouer des effectifs plus importants, au besoin.

Working with and under this staff, there should be a constant force-a very small force, if you please, at the outset, but a constant force-of men who can be trained and depended on for a variety of services, some of which will never fail to be in request. Such a minimum force, constantly employed, will, in time, accomplish much more than a much larger and costlier average force employed irregularly. Then, having such a constant force as a steady element, to maintain tone and method, you may, as from time to time you feel able and disposed, employ temporarily a much larger force, a great deal more economically than would be otherwise possible."

p.66-67.

Entretenir adéquatement est la seule façon de prévenir le vandalisme. Bien entretenir le site et favoriser la présence de nombreux citoyens donnant le bon et silencieux exemple de civisme sont les meilleurs remèdes contre le vandalisme.

"The only way in which any town park can long be kept in a generally useful and improving condition, is by providing so well and amply for the uses which are designed to be made of it that the great body of decent, orderly, tidy, and respectable people will not be impelled to fall into practices inconvenient to others or unfavourable to the preservation and improvement of its natural beauty. This done, the silent influence of example and of an obvious custom, acting helpfully to the police regulations, will strongly persuade others to exercise due control upon perverse inclinations." p.53

Négliger l'entretien d'un parc constitue presque un incitatif au vandalisme. Faire en sorte que les visiteurs trouvent un environnement propre. Prendre un soin tout particulier des lieux pendant les travaux d'aménagement, lorsque des matériaux et des rebuts traînent.

"One in his disposition to adapt his conduct to the circumstances in which he finds himself, and especially to be neat, cleanly, and nice where the objects about him are neat, cleanly, and nice. I have repeatedly had occasion to observe that while any park work is in an incomplete condition, with materials in the rough, and litter of workmen lying about, no police, no fences, and guards are adequate to prevent the occurrence of wanton injuries and manifestations of rudeness, recklessness, and destructiveness. (How few boys can resist the temptation to throw stones at the windows of a vacant and dilapidated house?) Passing the finished point, the litter cleared up, the turf established and once smooth-mown, and every thing in view having a complete and refined aspect, a change occurs, and fences and guards, before necessary, may be removed, and the police reduced without danger." p.54

Répondre à l'évolution des

"If in public places you have a walk of a certain

besoins essentiels de la clientèle, sinon le risque de désobéissance et de dégradation augmentera sérieusement. Par exemple, les citoyens circulent normalement sur les sentiers, à moins que la fréquentation soit telle qu'il faille sortir des sentiers.

capacity between borders of fine turf, people will submit to considerable crowding without going out of it; when the crowding passes a certain point a few will step on the turf, doing little harm, but when the walk is so crowded that the provision seems absurdly inadequate, of a sudden, the rule, by common assent, becomes a dead letter, and the most reserved and cautious take to the turf. Under corresponding influences seats will be used to stand upon, and may be broken or defiled without compunction.

Si les nécessités ne peuvent être accommodées, la police tentera d'abord de refréner le comportement, puis fermera les yeux

So, if the necessities of the body cannot be accommodated decently within reasonable distance, there will soon grow up upon the park a common law by which they will be accommodated indecently. Your police will for a time contend with this in vain, and then will be sullenly blind to it.

Garder la montagne dans une condition acceptable et utile pour le citoyen normal, sa femme et ses enfants.

At a small part of the study required for putting and keeping the mountain in a condition in which it will have a high degree of use-fulness to the average citizen of Montreal, his wife and children, it can be kept in a condition in which a small proportion of your least valuable population, to whom any refinement of manners or check upon vulgar and brutal habits is irksome, will continue to resort to it with more or less of pleasure. This pleasure will consist not so much in positive enjoyment as in negative relief from what is elsewhere tiresome and dreary. And if nothing or but little more is done than is necessary to adapt the mountain to be satisfactory in this way, it will gradually come to be satisfactory in no other, and what money you spend on it will be mainly ill-spent." p.54-55

Sinon votre population la moins valable, celle pour laquelle le raffinement des manières est ennuyant, utilisera la montagne de façon abusive, gaspillant les investissements et les effets positifs.

La surveillance et la diffusion

Élaborer une réglementation applicable qui évite d'ennuyer le public avec des règlements superflus ou qui ne peuvent être mis en vigueur.

«You will require ultimately a more elaborate code of ordinances than would be applicable at present and it is important not to annoy the public with regulations that are not necessary or that cannot be enforced.

Rendre cette liste courte et brève.

It is also important that the rules be as short and simple as will answer the purpose so that visitors can readily read, understand and remember them.

Afficher une réglementation qui

Whatever may be the necessary forms of law, I

ressemble à la proposition suivante.

would suggest that a form of poster for display on the grounds will be desirable, reading somewhat as in the accompanying draft A."

*13 24th March 1876,
to H. A. Nelson

Il est formellement interdit de :

"By Ordinance of
it is hereby forbidden within this Park

Parc du Mont-Royal

A Mount Royal Park

1

2

3

4 conduire dangereusement

1

2

3

4 To drive or ride at a dangerous

5 Vendre ou étaler tout produit sans autorisation spéciale

5 To hawk, peddle offer or expose for sale any article or display any sign or advertisement or solicit business or fares except under special license

6 Se livrer à des jeux de hasard

6 To play games of chance or with any instrument or tables for gaming.

7 Tenir un langage abusif ou indécent...

7 To make any oration or harangue or utter loud threatening or abusive or indecent language or do any indecent or obscene act.

8 Transporter ou faire usage d'armes à feu, feux d'artifices

8 To fire or carry any firearm, fire cracker, torpedo or fire works or to make a fire.

9 Refuser d'évacuer sur demande ???

9 In case of emergency where life or property are endangered, all persons, if required to do so by the Superintendent or any of his assistants, are required to remove from any portion of the park specified by said superintendent or his assistants and remain off the same till permission is given to return._____

Les bons citoyens sont requis de faire tout leur possible pour respecter les règles édictées ci-dessus pour arrêter les pratiques interdites et pour soutenir les officiers.

Good citizens are earnestly requested, in the early stages of this important public enterprise to do all in their power to secure respect for the above rules, to discontinue all disorderly and unseemly practices and to aid, encourage and sustain the officers of the Commission in their efforts to prevent customs and habits from being established in the use of the Park which when it shall have reached a more complete

and finished condition will be found undesirable."

24th March 1876,
to H. A. Nelson

Prendre les moyens pour s'assurer que la réglementation soit respectée: arrestation, amende et même emprisonnement.

"The question of the method of enforcing the ordinances must be considered with reference to your local laws and customs. In New York the Park Commission had legislative power over the park and disregard of its ordinances is a misdemeanour punishable before any magistrate, with fine and imprisonment. There is a magistrate's office and lock up adjoining the central parts of the park. In Brooklyn there is a lock up on the park and your ground is so large I think you will need one. The Park keepers and certain foremen and others have the same authority to make arrests as the metropolitan Police."

*13 24th March 1876,
to H. A. Nelson

Voir à ce que les gardiens se déplacent constamment pour sécuriser les usagers peu rassurés.

"Keep active and intelligent guardians moving briskly through it, so that the modest, timid, and nervous may have frequent assurance of protection against rudeness." p.56

Lors des congés et fêtes, finaliser d'avance les travaux d'entretien, augmenter la surveillance de façon à éviter que les gens ne prennent de mauvaises habitudes.

"On holidays, when (at special cost for the occasion) you throw all open, have much of the ordinary housekeeping work of the ground finished early in the morning or the night before, and let the more intelligent and trustworthy of the men ordinarily employed upon it act as assistant watchmen to the regular police, mainly with a view to check, by their presence and a polite cautionary word upon occasion, any tendency they may observe of visitors to fall into practices wasteful of the value of the property. It is wonderful how much may be accomplished in this way, especially when care has been once taken to establish good and prevent the forming of bad customs." p.57

LES ÉLÉMENTS DE DESIGN

La mise en valeur du relief

Éviter le terme parc, utiliser plutôt l'appellation montagne pour désigner le site afin de le faire paraître plus grand et de marquer le respect qui doit lui être rendu

"and the better to guard against the tendency to blindly expensive and inappropriate precedents in this respect I then urged, as I often did afterward, that the term park, as applied to the mountain, should be discarded, and its older, more dignified, and more wholesomely suggestive appellation preserved and emphasized." p.9

Planter des massifs d'arbustes bas pour créer des zones denses, foisonnantes.

"But besides the more direct economies, sufficiently suggested, of such low-screen plantings, they would, if wisely made, incidentally go far to secure qualities in the scenery of the mountain (generally referred to in books on the subject as intricacy, obscurity, and mystery, and through these affecting the apparent aerial-perspective) of which the result would be more than equivalent to doubling the extent and value, for your purpose, of the property. I have frequently known intelligent countrymen estimate an area of broke ground, through which they had been walked, actually of thirty acres, at from seventy-five to a hundred, and solely because of such treatment of it." p.40

Bien utilisées, les règles de l'art peuvent facilement faire paraître la montagne deux fois plus grande qu'elle ne l'est vraiment.

Insérer citation sur roches et arbres mis au sommet des parois rocheuses

Faire soigneusement ressortir la différence de hauteur entre le sommet de la montagne et son pied. Cette stratégie fera gagner un élément de variété approprié à la nature de la montagne.

"Pursuing this hint skilfully, and not at all in a pedantic or exact spirit, you will cheaply give a stronger emphasis to the difference of elevation between your mountain top and base, making your mountain more mountain-like, gaining: withal, a natural and appropriate element of variety." p.44

Positionner les chemins, sentiers et bâtiments en fonction de la topographie. Le plan de 1877 illustre bien cette proposition.

"The strong bounding lines and distinctions of tint will enable you to readily distinguish the proposed roads, the walks and the buildings of various classes, and you will find little difficulty in understanding the position of each, and its relation, throughout its entire length, to the topography." p.72-73

Les voies proposées évitent délicatement tantôt une coulée, tantôt un affleurement rocheux ou un monticule évoqué par des ombres subtiles, ou mettent en valeur un point de vue.

"The topography will account for nearly every curve of road or walk. Here, for example, you observe that a slightly darker shade upon the surface indicates a little swell upon the gentle slope of the Côte Placide. The road approaching it, if it were carried straight on,

would either be made of steeper grade than is desirable, or this would be avoided at the expense of a heavy cutting. The road, as you see, bends slightly away, therefore, and winds around the swell to the higher ground beyond it. Here, again, the road avoids a rocky ledge; here, approaching the borders of the property, it doubles around a knoll and turning into the Piedmont district, keeps steadily working at light grades up the hill; here it creeps diagonally through a depression of a wall of rock and doubles again so as to reach a point of view in the Underfell, commanding the western prospect, and so on." p.73-74

La topographie et l'élément minéral sont extrêmement importants dans l'oeuvre d'Olmsted. Ainsi, par exemple, à Central Park il a sculpté le sol, accentuant les promontoires, creusant des plans d'eau afin de créer des atmosphères appropriées. Les affleurements et les parois rocheuses ont été généralement mis en valeur par de savantes mises en scène. Bref, il savait très adroitement tirer partie du "Genus Loci".

Insérer citation millions de mètres cubes de terre déplacés à Central Park
La place du mont Royal dans l'oeuvre de Frederick Law Olmsted, Charles Beveridge p. 19

La mise en valeur des points de vue

Les vues offertes au loin sont impressionnantes. Plutôt que réaliser des aménagements ambitieux, rendre d'abord les surfaces moins accidentées et désolées. Sans détruire le côté pittoresque, améliorer la qualité de composition végétale. Prêter attention aux directions d'où les vues les plus intéressantes sont offertes et améliorer les avant-plans. Masquer les constructions indispensables en les harmonisant

"Reverting to the matter of the general aspect of the scenery of the mountain, I would observe that the distant prospects in all direction offer such controlling attractions that some of them being commanded from nearly all parts of the ground, the immediate local landscape conditions are of much less consequence than they usually are in pleasure grounds and that it is not undesirable that they should be subdued in character. Operations for their improvement should, therefore, not be ambitious and should be intended first to relieve the surface of the mountain of the accidental and transient conditions through which it has at present an unnecessary desolate and

par des plantations.

melancholy aspect; next, without destroying the essential picturesqueness of its natural features to add a greater beauty of foliage; next to hold attention in directions where the finest views will be seen to the best advantage and to furnish them with more harmonious and better composed foregrounds; next to subordinate, and as far as may be practicable, obscure with suitable natural objects the constructions necessary to the convenient use of the ground, (as these must, in the end, be extensive and more or less too fine for harmony with its general character),...

Éviter le style de jardinage conventionnel parce qu'il serait incompatible avec le génie du lieu.

... and finally to avoid in these and all respects an ordinary conventional gardening style of work, as finical, unseemly and out of character with the genius of the place.

Donner un agrément naturel et un caractère pastoral calme aux hauteurs massives et rugueuses

...through its natural amenity and the simple, quiet, secluded and pastoral character which can be given it, to the grandly bold and rugged heights and declivities of the main body."

*2 21st November 1874
to the Commissioners of Mount Royal Park

Créer un funiculaire pour soulager d'une ascension difficile, les personnes faibles et les enfants.

"Whenever street railways shall be laid to the foot of the mountain, an inclined lift or elevator will likewise be desirable to save feeble persons and young children the hard toil of its ascent".

Accès aux points de vue

- 21th November 1874
to the Commissioners of Mount Royal Park

Remarquer que cette proposition apparaît dans sa lettre d'engagement. Tous les documents ultérieurs vont dans le sens contraire, montrant une détermination croissante à empêcher la création de ce funiculaire.

Reporter tout projet de construction d'un funiculaire et de tout projet temporaire après l'adoption d'un plan d'ensemble.

" With regard to the proposed elevator, I can only advise most urgently that all projects for constructions that are not indispensable for immediate and temporary use should be postponed until a general plan has been adopted."

*6 16th September 1875,
to H. A. Nelson

Éviter de gaspiller les éléments de valeur autres que les vues saisissantes. Ne pas considérer comme un triomphe la création d'une montée ultra-rapide les points de vue, au détriment de la beauté des paysages.

"I say this because among the currents of public opinion of which I had some experience with you, there was a certain spendthrift tendency to slight every element of value in the property except that of the great views. There were those who would have thought it a triumph of art whisk people up to the highest eminence of the mountain, give them a big mouthful of landscape beauty, and slide them back to town in the shortest possible way; and there were, even before I was consulted, speculations afoot for doing something of the kind at so much a head.

Intégrer la découverte des points de vue spectaculaires du site dans le cadre d'une visite qui laisse découvrir les autres qualités du site comme une succession d'éléments d'un poème paysager revigorant.

It might be to some a question whether the most valuable influence of properties of this class is to be found in such distinct sensational features, even though provided by nature, as are commonly most consciously felt, talked about, and written about, or in more unobtrusive, pervading, home-like qualities of which the effects come to one less in a torrent-like way, than as the gentle, persuasive dew, falling so softly as to be imperceptible, and yet delightfully reinvigorating in its results. Even this might be to some a question; but let any man ask himself whether the value of such views as the grandest the mountain offers, is greater when they are made distinct spectacles or when they are enjoyed as successive incidents of a sustained landscape poem, to each of which the mind is gradually and sweetly led up, and from which it is gradually and sweetly led away, so that they become a part of a consistent experience, let him ask this with reference to the soothing and refreshment of a town-strained human organization, and he will not need argument to lead him to a sound conclusion." p.58-59

Prendre bien soin du sort des plus faibles, la satisfaction de chacun ne s'en trouvera qu'améliorée.

"On this principle it is better in dealing with it to cultivate the habit of thoughtful attention to the feebler sort of folk-of asking, for instance, can this or that be made easier and more grateful to an old

woman or a sick child, without, on the whole, additional expense, except in thoughtfulness? If so, ten to one, the little improvement will simply be that refinement of judgment which is the larger part of the difference between good and poor art, and the enjoyment of every man will be increased by it, though he may not know just how.

With this idea in mind think over what you would like to be able to do if you were much concerned about the health of a father, brother, or son whose private business cares you saw to be wearing upon him to a point of danger; who was growing morbidly irritable and despondent, or, what is quite as bad, morbidly sanguine and reckless. Or again, take the case of a woman recovering with tedious slowness from a severe illness, still weak, in spirits, low and under obvious nervous prostration. Take cases such as these, that you never have to go far to find, and ask what of all practicable ways of turning the mountain to business account for their benefit a reasonably refined common-sense would had you to adopt.

Amener une personne malade depuis sa chambre, déposez celle-ci le plus rapidement et abruptement possible devant les plus belles vues, attendez qu'elle soit fatiguée et retournez la rapidement à son point de départ ne lui donnera pas la même qualité d'expérience qu'une découverte progressive dans une séquence de paysages.

Would you, if you could take the man from his counting room, the woman from her sickroom and plant them both as quickly and abruptly as possible before the finest view on the mountain, keep them there till they tired of it, and then send them straightway back again?

Let us try to imagine a better way." p.59-60

L'espacement entre les arbres permet de conserver les vues vers le lac des Deux Montagnes depuis la promenade (lac des Castors) et depuis le pavillon qui domine le monticule à l'est de celle-ci.

which leave the view open from this pavilion and from the promenade across the water in the direction of the Lake of the Two Mountains." p.79

La présence de grandes aires ouvertes avec des plantations ponctuelles très bien planifiée qui servent d'encadrement à des vistas choisies, constitue une caractéristique majeure de la pratique d'Olmsted. Ainsi à Iroquois Park, à Louisville, Kentucky,

le site le plus comparable au mont Royal, le sommet est une large aire ouverte d'où on peut observer les paysages.

Les circulations

Ne pas tracer une route uniquement avec des considérations d'économie de construction entre deux points, considérer plutôt l'économie dans le sens de la mise en valeur optimale des paysages de l'ensemble de la propriété.

Le véritable plaisir de la promenade en calèche demeure inconnu si on se limite aux rues et aux routes ordinaires

À New York, les tarifs normaux sont près du double de ceux de Montréal. Pourtant, les commissaires n'ont eu aucune difficulté à convaincre une douzaine et plus d'opérateurs de calèches de rendre le site accessible, à un tarif raisonnable, pour les personnes faibles.

Concevoir le chemin d'abord comme une source de plaisir. Si le cheminement est intéressant, quelques minutes de plus ou de moins seront de peu d'importance. Éviter les zigzags et les pentes excessives. Ne pas imaginer que le plaisir est concentré au sommet, et que le reste ne constitue qu'une pénible nécessité

"This, then, is the precept which a more mature study of art would have reached. A road must be located not alone with reference to economy of construction in respect to convenience of passage from one point to another, but with reference to economy in the ultimate development of resources of poetic charm of scenery; and these resources must be considered comprehensively and interactingly with reference to the entire property." p.35

... The value of a pleasure carriage is in fact found to have been unknown as long as its use was limited to ordinary streets and roads.

*2 21st November 1874,
to the Commissioners of Mount Royal Park

"... For instance, the ordinary charge for carriage hire in the streets of New York is nearly double what it is in Montreal but the Park Commissioners of New York have had no difficulty in causing a dozen or more carriages to be provided, comfortable low-hung covered vehicles suitable for weakly persons, in which passengers are taken at a rate of fare of 4 cents a mile for a course of 5 miles, or of 5 cts for a course of 2 1/2 miles."

*2 21st November 1874,
to the Commissioners of Mount Royal Park

"...It is important to keep in mind that your object is a pleasure drive and that, provided the route is interesting, a few minutes more or less to be spent upon it is a matter of small consequence---in some respects even an advantage, {for} which excessive crookedness and steepness are very objectionable. Your pleasure is not to be all concentrated on the top of the mountain and the base treated as a disagreeable necessity to be got through with in the shortest possible way at any cost. ..."

*7 11th October 1875,

To H. A. Nelson.

Ne pas construire le chemin des calèches pour amener les usagers directement à tous les points d'intérêts, mais, inciter les utilisateurs à marcher pour mieux bénéficier non seulement des points de vue mais aussi des mises en scène naturelles.

There is also, as I have before suggested, an advantage in holding something of a little importance in reserve from the drive. It is not to be desired that everything of interest on your park should be seen by a man lolling in his carriage for an hour. It is better that all should have some inducement to walk, and that those who can not afford to drive should have something to themselves, as this design provides at the north end of the Craggs for example. As for those who cannot toil up steep hillsides but must be carried wherever they go on the mountain, special provision is made for them as you will see presently." p.76.

Le chemin a été conçu pour que le conducteur de calèche puisse bénéficier de près de toutes les parties de la propriété. Aucun point du parc n'est situé à plus de 200 verges et peu d'endroits sont situés à plus de la moitié de cette distance.

"First, you will observe that it puts all parts of the property very closely under contribution to the driver's pleasure. Any point on the park, which you may wish to visit, can be driven to within about 200 yards, and there are but few points that can not be approached by a carriage within half that distance. Next, it carries the visitor, not directly to every particularly interesting point of view - for it is desirable that there should be some such points held in reserve as an inducement to walking - but to such a succession of points that each characteristic variety of scenery to which the property is adapted will be seen to advantage, and distant views obtained in every direction; so that, in fact, the horizon may be swept in the course of the drive. Third, it offers, though this may not at once be obvious, all practicable directness between, different parts of the mountain and especially between the lower and higher parts." p.74

Le chemin ne conduit pas directement à chaque point de vue. Il est préférable pour inciter les utilisateurs à marcher de ne rendre accessible qu'à pied certains endroits.

Le chemin offre le tracé le plus direct possible compte tenu des contraintes.

Les cheminements piétonniers devraient longer de près le chemin des calèches. Il faut aussi créer aussi un chemin large et facile permettant d'accéder au sommet qui aura ses attraits particuliers ainsi que plusieurs cheminements mineurs montant l'escarpement plus directement.

"Foot approaches should closely follow the main carriages approach and its laterals, but it is desirable that there should also be one broad, easy walk to the top of the Mountain, having attractions peculiar to itself, and several minor foot paths scaling the crags more directly."

*2 21st November 1874,
The Commissioners of Mount Royal Park.

Les cheminements piétonniers proposés traversent toutes les parties du parc. Ils offrent des tracés plus directs parce que les

"I now ask attention to the system of foot communication. It traverses all parts of the park, you may observe, rather more completely than that of the drives, but offers more direct routes of all purposes of

pententes utilisables par un piéton peuvent atteindre à peu près le double de celles des calèches, entre autres parce qu'un piéton peut emprunter des marches pour gravir la dénivellation.

Pour offrir à un grand nombre de gens de toutes classes les meilleures formes d'exercice, celles qui sont favorables à la contemplation, deux routes ont été créées. Elles permettent d'atteindre les parties de la montagne les plus hautes ou les plus reculées. Elles ne comportent pas de marches ou de pentes excessives. Elles sont reliées pour former un circuit d'environ trois milles. Une personne en chaise roulante pourrait en empruntant une section de trottoir de l'avenue des Pins, effectuer un circuit de quatre milles qui dévoilerait les paysages caractéristiques de la montagne et les vues les plus vastes sans repasser par le même point.

La route doit desservir le parc et non l'inverse. Chaque pied de chemin est un mal nécessaire dans le développement de la montagne de la santé et de la richesse de la ville. Moins il y aura de routes qui attireront l'attention, mieux cela sera.

Étudier les raffinements de design, tels l'absence de sections de chemin trop en pente est l'essence de mon travail.

pleasure-seeking. This is feasible, partly because a man can walk without excessive exertion on a grade about twice as steep as that upon which a horse without excessive exertion can draw what would be an easy load for him on a level, and also because a footman can ascend declivities by stairs." p 76-77

"For this reason and also because to the great body of all classes those forms of quiet and easy exercise which are favorable to contemplative enjoyment are the most valuable, two routes are arranged, by which the highest and most remote parts of the mountain can be reached without the use of stairs and without excessively steep grades. The two are so connected as to form a circuit walk within the park about three miles in length, and so also that by taking in a short piece of the sidewalk of Pine Avenue a round tour of four miles could be made by an invalid in a rolling-chair, exhibiting all the characteristic scenery of the mountain and the most extensive distant views, without twice crossing the same point." p.77-78

"The road is to be made for the park not the park to be formed for the road. Every foot of road on the mountain will be simply a necessary evil in the development of its value as a means of health and wealth to the city. The less road is obtruded on the attention the better."

*30th 3 December 1876,
to H.A. Nelson

"Perhaps from the point of view to which you have been obliged to accustom yourselves in Montreal my objections to such a comparatively short piece of steep road may not seem very weighty, but you will remember that study of refinement in such matters is the main part of my business."

*7 11th October 1875,
to H. A. Nelson

Varier le tracé et les pentes pour éviter la monotonie. Permettre à un cheval de tirer sa charge au trot en montant, de descendre sans forcer pour retenir la charge. Le chemin réalisé a une pente moyenne de 1 dans 37. On y trouve de courts secteurs à peu près au niveau ou avec une légère pente inversée. On y trouve aussi 2 secteurs de moins de 100 verges avec une pente maximale de 1 dans 20.

"A pleasure-road, in passing over broken and undulating ground, should avoid a perfect monotony of grade as well as of course. Its inclination should be such that a good horse, with a fair load, can be kept moving at a trot without urging in going up hill, and without holding back in going down. Your main road, as laid out, is adapted to meet these requirements. Its average grade is 1 in 37, a grade upon which, in coaching days, the mail went up hill at the rate of ten miles an hour, and came down safely with equal speed. The maximum grade is 1 in 20, and occurs but twice, holding in neither case for more than a hundred yards. There are numerous nearly level, short stretches, and at a few points there is, for a few yards, a slight reverse of the inclination. The excavation or embankment required to obtain these grades rarely exceeds three feet upon the centre line of the road." p.74-75"

Éviter les perturbations du sol inutiles. Laisser des parois de rocher presque verticales lorsque des excavations sont requises.

"... I had been most anxious to avoid unnecessary disturbance of the surface and had been encouraged by Mr Macquistan to suppose that the necessary excavations could be so managed as to leave a nearly vertical face of rock...."

*8 28th December 1875,
to H. A. Nelson

Si la nature du roc rend mes instructions impossibles à suivre, créer un effet massif, frappant, intéressant et plaisant d'une autre façon.

"I deeply regret that I was not promptly advised when it was found that my instructions in this respect were impracticable owing to the nature of the rock excavated. I should have come to the ground with all possible promptness and changed the design. What you want is a bold & striking as well as interesting & pleasing effect & if it can not be got in one way, you need to get it another. It will now be very difficult and I fear costly to avoid a very mean common place aspect or to establish any beautiful character along the line of this road for many years to come. It is useless to study the question till we see the effect of the spring thaws but I am inclined to think that the only satisfactory thing to be done is to greatly extend the berm bank so that a broad walk may be carried on it & sufficient level ground remain to carry an irregular line of trees & bushes on each side of it. Mr Radford's instructions to Mr. Picton with regard to the berm-bank as reported to me were sound but did not go far enough. Please to say this to Mr Picton and

Créer un remblai 10 pieds plus large que requis par la route même de façon à planter des lignes irrégulières d'arbres et d'arbustes de part et d'autre du chemin.

tell him that in continuing operations it will be desirable to make the embankment at least ten feet wider than is required for the wheel-way or than was contemplated in my original instructions. And now that the undermining process on the other side has gone so far, I am not much afraid of its going as much further as may be thought convenient and economical."

*8 28th December 1875,
to H. A. Nelson

Garder la terre et le sol pour planter des arbres et des arbustes.

N'utiliser que de la pierre pour effectuer les remblais.

" All earth and soil in which trees and shrubs can be planted will now be of increased value. It will not be possible except at great expense to get enough and all that can be saved should be scrupulously stored in spoil-banks and only rock used in the embanking."

*8 28th December 1875,
to H. A. Nelson

Ajouter texte sur terre et plantations en bordure de chemin.

Changer le revêtement actuel du chemin pour un macadam pourrait jusqu'à doubler les coûts et n'améliorerait les conditions qu'au début du printemps et après une pluie.

Plutôt que construire une route en pierre, conserver les caractéristiques existantes gardera la montagne plus tranquille en été et sera plus agréable pour tous.

"I have read with regret yours of yesterday just received. Referring to my advice of 25th you state that with your present imperfect arrangements travel to the mountain is greatly increasing. It would cost little to double the convenient carrying capacity of the present road at the place in question and make it during the summer a quieter and in every way more agreeable road than one of stone can be. It is only for the early spring and after showers that an earth road is not much better for pleasure driving than a McAdamized road."

*27 28th September 1876,
to H.A. Nelson

Adopter le design original d'un mur et d'un balcon promenade ajouterait un élément de variété.

"If where the work is yet not far advanced it should seem to him practicable to adopt the original design of a wall and balcony walk at any point, it would be very desirable to try for it not only for its intrinsic merits but because it would provide an agreeable variety. ..."

*8 28th December 1875,
to H. A. Nelson

Construire des balcons pour les calèches serait trop apparent particulièrement depuis le bas.

Construire adéquatement de manière rustique serait probablement moins coûteux qu'avec du bois équarri.

Incorporer des éléments décoratifs sous la supervision d'un architecte. Laissez-moi vous envoyer le responsable de la construction de ce genre de structures à New York, Brooklyn et San Francisco.

«The balcony for carriages will be a conspicuous object from below--too conspicuous. I suppose that it could be built in the rustic manner, suitably, at less cost than of squared timber. If of the latter it would need to be carefully designed and nicely executed with decorative details under the supervision of an architect. If of rustic work I should ask to be allowed to send the man who has made all the rustic work structures of the New York, Brooklyn and San Francisco Parks to manage it. If it is to be made this winter I should recommend the latter course; if adopted I would furnish a sketch.

In estimating for it, calculate on very heavy timber, as in the situation it is essential that it should not only be strong but should appear strikingly so."

*28 12th October 1876,
to W. J. Picton C.E.
in Chg. Mt Royal Park

Construire la route de façon à ce qu'elle semble exister depuis des siècles éviter les murs, glacis et surfaces dénudées.

"The surface of the drive is designed to be everywhere slightly below that of its immediate borders, and, in making it, it is intended that the borders, shall be graded in connection with it in such manner that it shall seem to fit a course marked out and prepared centuries ago by nature. Any appearance of a retaining wall on one side, of an embankment on the other; any place glacis-like slopes, and any bald or lumpy surfaces are, of course, to be avoided". p.75

Éviter les virages serrés et les détours inutiles. Ne pas créer de longs détours qui offrent deux fois les mêmes vues.

"Petty sinuosities and all sharp turns or angles in the course of roads or walks are undesirable; and it should be possible to go from any point in the park to another distant point without excessive indirectness of course; certainly, without so doubling on a course as to produce an impression of a return to the starting-point. It is not desirable that visitors should be compelled to return for any considerable distance over the same ground, and get the same views twice." p.73

Permettre au visiteur de circuler au retour sur un chemin différent de celui de l'aller.

"As a general rule in laying out a park, a visitor should not be compelled to travel twice over the same ground, but should be free to go out upon one side and return upon another, as those on foot will be able to, for example, on Mount Royal, if this design is carried out. By large expense a return road from the heights could be brought down on the north side, but

habituelles d'aménagement. Elles sont d'ailleurs suivies sur ce plan en ce qui concerne les piétons.

Malgré ces prémices, ne pas construire à grands frais, pour l'instant, un chemin qui descendrait du Sommet sur le côté nord du parc. Cette construction détruirait des points d'intérêt naturels et s'avère plus ou moins essentielle.

Les vues à l'aller diffèrent substantiellement de celles au retour et sont particulièrement intéressantes.

Construire les routes, sentiers et autres constructions de façon à laisser les parties centrales des clairières ouvertes. Conserver ces constructions à une certaine distance des limites pour créer des écrans de végétaux plantés librement et de façon naturelle, ce qui permettra d'éviter l'impression de confinement.

Au sujet de l'aménagement du réservoir, là où est le lac des Castors, il ajoute ce qui suit.

L'ajout à cet endroit, d'une large promenade une réduction de la largeur du chemin, l'usage de pentes plus accentuées et de changements de direction plus fréquents dans la partie supérieure de la montagne, les attraits naturels seront ainsi moins sujets à des atteintes et la route s'harmonisera plus avec le paysage.

Séparer les voies pour les calèches de celles pour les piétons est une caractéristique non seulement du parc

were expense at this time of less consideration, or if the necessary fund for the purpose, should, in the future, be offered the city as a gift, I would not advise such a road to be built, partly for the reason that it would necessarily greatly injure very interesting natural features, just as, in a much less degree, the road already made has done, but also because variety in this case is little needed. The aspects in which the scenery of the mountain side will be seen in coming down are highly interesting and very different from those which will have been enjoyed in going up, with the face in the reverse direction." p.76

"As a general rule, in laying out parks, the principal roads, walks, and other constructions should be so disposed as to leave the central parts unbroken, so that broad, quiet landscape effects may be had in looking across them; at the same time, they should be kept far enough from the boundaries to allow exterior objects which may not be consistent with the designed scenes, to be screened from view by border plantations, and to admit of such a free, natural, and interesting treatment of the intervening space as to avoid the suggestion of limit and confinement." p.73

Seventh, the addition at this point of a broad, level promenade drive, will justify a reduction of width, and the use of steeper grades and more frequent and rapid changes of course in the drive of the upper part of the mountain, the natural features of which will thus be less subject to injury, while the road will be more harmonious [and in] character with the scenery.

*25 26 July 1876,
H. A. Nelson.

du Mont-Royal mais aussi de la plupart de ses projets. Pour minimiser le nombre d'intersections conflictuelles entre les différents types de circulation, il prévoit généralement une multitude d'ouvrages de génie réalisés avec grand art. Le plan de 1877 propose la construction de 3 ponts.

Les éléments construits, considérations générales

Considérations générales

Se souvenir que la montagne est la montagne et que tout objet artificiel semblera incongru. Moins il sera évident, mieux cela sera.

"Regarded as ornaments it must be always remembered that the mountain is a mountain and all finished artificial ornaments upon it will be more or less incongruous. Every artificial object upon it should be placed there only and obviously only to serve in some practical way the main purpose of the enjoyment of natural scenery, and the less conspicuous it is the better."

*34 28 April 1877,
to Mount Royal Park Commission

Si vous aviez réalisé pleinement que ce qui rend votre propriété attrayante dépend du désordre et du côté enveloppant de ses éléments, il est possible que vous n'auriez pas fait votre achat.

"Possibly you would not have made your purchase if you had all as plainly seen that much of what made the property attractive to you depended upon the wildness and seclusion of its natural elements.

Olmsted utilise "wildness" et non "wilderness".

Éviter la multiplication des chemins, sentiers, escaliers et autres éléments construits. Éviter que le site ne soit jonché de débris et envahi de milliers de gens qui s'y récréent de façon déréglée sinon vous perdrez le charme naturel qui vous a séduit initialement.

If it is to be cut up with roads and walks, spotted with shelters, and streaked with staircases; if it is to be strewn with lunch papers, beer bottles, sardine cans and paper collars; and if thousands of people are to seek their recreation upon it unrestrainedly, each according to his special tastes, it is likely to lose whatever of natural charm you first saw in it." p.26

Poursuivre un nouvel idéal pour la montagne, plus de charme

"You need to have a new mountain ideals in view; ideals with more not less, of poetic charm; and your

poétique. Construire les routes et autres entreprises en étudiant le futur et pas nécessairement ce que vous mettez derrière.

roads and other artificial constructions must be made with studied regard to that which you thus have before you, not to what you are necessarily putting behind." p.27

Ne dépenser aucun dollar pour un objet uniquement ornemental; en aucun cas, aucun bâtiment qui ne serait pas indispensable pour un usage convenable, ordonné et décent.

"At no time did I advise the outlay of a dollar for a merely ornamental object; at no time any building which will not be indispensable for the convenient, orderly, and decent public use of the property or for keeping its operating expenses on an economical footing." p.9

Eviter de considérer les éléments artificiels comme objets désirables en soi. Ils sont plutôt un obstacle à l'entreprise. Garder à l'esprit que la valeur essentielle de votre propriété réside dans la terre, le roc, le sol et ce qui pousse sur le sol suite à une adroite adaptation des moyens dans la poursuite de buts adéquats.

"I will say no more upon the distinctively artificial features of the design, only, I pray you, never for a moment to forget that they are not objects to be desired in themselves; that they are rather the impedimenta of the undertaking. Bear in mind that it is in the earth, the rocks, the soil, and what the soil, by the skilful adaptation of means to well-chosen ends, shall be made to produce and support, that the essential value of this property is to consist. These are the meat and drink of the entertainment, to which the roads and walks and buildings are as knives and forks." p.80

Cette dernière citation suit une énumération de constructions souhaitables. Elle termine le texte de 1881 et de ce fait acquiert une importance particulière. Les trois citations précédentes et particulièrement la première ont été régulièrement interprétées comme signifiant qu'Olmsted s'opposait à presque tout aménagement construit. Les citations qui suivent et l'analyse détaillée du plan de 1877 contredisent pourtant cette interprétation simplificatrice.

Les escaliers

Construire une série d'escaliers dans l'escarpement et dans diverses pentes. Faire en sorte qu'ils soient agréables et faciles d'ascension pour les femmes et les enfants. Y incorporer plusieurs paliers, possiblement des balcons

"Stairs, as you see, are introduced at several points, both upon the crags and upon the minor declivities. These stairs should be arranged and studied in detail with great care to make them easy of use for women and children, and pleasant to all. They should be divided by numerous landings, and some of them should have broad covered balconies furnished with

couverts et des bancs bas, y intégrer des treillis. Construire des escaliers non pas surélevés mais ajustés convenablement au sol. Les marches ne doivent pas excéder six pouces de hauteur et avoir moins de quatorze pouces de profondeur.

Minimiser le nombre d'escaliers qui, même aménagés avec art, constituent des endroits non recommandables pour des gens en mauvaise santé.

Garder en tête que les escaliers comme toute autre chose dans le parc, ne doivent pas seulement servir à circuler mais aussi à augmenter la jouissance de la beauté de la nature à cause de l'art qu'ils incorporent. À l'exception des bancs et des mains courantes, construire en bois taillé à la hache.

Plusieurs escaliers sont indiqués au plan de 1877. L'escalier projeté dans le prolongement de la rue Peel fait un zigzag lové dans un creux à l'est de l'escalier actuel. Celui dans le prolongement de l'avenue Duluth est moins sinueux.

Les bâtiments

Construire trois bâtiments pourvus Citation disparue?

low seats; they should be deftly fitted into, not made to bridge over the ground. The landings should be roofed for shelter in showers, and the stairs shaded by vines on trellises. The steps should not be less than fourteen inches in the tread, nor more than six inches on the rise." p.77

"But when the best has been done to make the stairs easy and agreeable, there will always be a large number of persons, to whom a daily walk of several miles upon paths of moderate grade, and to whom the ascent of the mountain by such paths, would be a great advantage, who could not mount some of these flights of stairs without injury or risk to which they should not be subjected. Persons with weak lungs, with disorders of the heart, with a tendency to apoplexy, or to congestion or haemorrhage at any point, and little children, should be kept away from them. Elderly, rheumatic, gouty, and all weakly people, and parents and nurses with baby-wagons, must avoid them." p.77

"Bear in mind that the stairs, like every thing else on the park, should not be simply means of transit, but, as far as with reasonable expense they can be made, consistently with perfect adaptation to their special purposes, means by which a greater enjoyment of the beauty of nature will occur because of the art which they embody. They may be of wood with rough surface except on the seats and hand-rails, with many tool-marks of the axe and adze, yet should exhibit the talent of your best architects, for nothing is harder to get than good rude work fitted to nature." p.77

de tous les services sauf des chambres à coucher.

Fournir des accommodations pour les deux sexes et avoir des employés et employées pour prendre soin des usagers et prévenir contre les abus et désordres. Autrement, cela sera une continuelle source de problèmes et de plaintes.

"[sheet or sheets missing here--ed.]

be, as at any other inns, proper necessary accommodations for both sexes, with men and women to take care of them & guard against abuses & disorder. Otherwise you will find that this single requiremt will give you no end of trouble and be a source of constant complaint."

*12 24th February 1876,
To H. A Nelson &c

Construire rapidement la structure montrée au plan C. Installer une tente dès cet été. Cela permettra d'évaluer les commodités requises

"I propose that you shall immediately build so much of this structure as is shown on Sheet C. and shall for this summer place a tent where, in the full plan, the room lettered "Refectory" stands. This will give you in good form all the special conveniences needed & accommodations for the lodging &c of the manager and servants."

*14 4th April 1876,
to H. A. Nelson

"Crown of the mountain"

Créer au point le plus haut, probablement comme fin de promenade, un belvédère qui permette de regarder dans toutes les directions, au dessus des arbres.

"At the highest point of the mountain, which would probably be the end of the promenade, a belvedere will be demanded by which visitors can mount to a height at which they can look over the top of the trees and command the widest range of view in all directions. I am not as yet satisfied that a suitable site for a large building can be obtained at this point, except at great expense, but if it can it will probably also be the best place for one of the two refectories.

Cet endroit serait le meilleur site pour l'un des deux réfectoires mais pas pour un large bâtiment.

Construire ce bâtiment comme tout autre importante élément majeur, c'est-à-dire avec grande attention et à un coût excédant ce que votre commission est prêt à entreprendre immédiatement.

As any large building here would necessarily be an important feature of the park, it would require to be designed with great care and would be a somewhat more costly construction than I imagine your commission would be willing to immediately undertake.

Faire en sorte que le toit de ce bâtiment soit le seul objet artificiel, sur la montagne, visible à distance.

I should wish its roof if possible to be the only artificial object on the mountain to be recognized from a distance.

Éviter qu'il ne soit vu du bord de l'escarpement, car cela réduirait l'impression de hauteur de la montagne

Any large building standing so as to be seen near the edge of the cliff would have a very bad effect, reducing the apparent height and grandeur of the whole mountain."

*12 24th February 1876,
To H. A Nelson &c

Arrêter la calèche au portique d'un "hospice" en bois situé sur le rocher le plus haut.

... until with a final rapid turn the carriage would stop at the open porch of a timber-built hospice, so situated upon the highest rock of the mountain that from chairs on its wide galleries the nearest thing to be seen would, on all sides, be a broad mass of tree-top foliage, sloping quietly away in simple undulations of light and shade to a rounded edge distinctly defined against a much lower and more remote middle distance." p.62-63

Offrir la vue sur le sommet des arbres depuis une large galerie avec des chaises.

Construire la Acouronne de la montagne[@], au point culminant, un bâtiment comprenant une plate-forme et une tour basse. Éviter de le construire plus haut ou plus évident que les besoins ne l'exigent. Concevoir ce bâtiment afin de desservir des besoins estivaux et de servir des rafraîchissements légers.

"At the highest point in the Upperfell - the crown of the mountain, - there is a larger establishment intended to have a deck and low tower from which visitors will overlook the trees on the adjoining slopes, and command a view all around the horizon. It should be no higher and in no way more conspicuous than is necessary to accomplish this object. This house is designed for summer use, and to supply only light refreshments." p.78

Les commissaires ont les plans préparés par l'architecte T. Wisedell. Les parties apparentes sont en bois taillé à la hache, sans peinture. Asseoir le bâtiment sur le socle rocheux, l'entourer d'arbres à faible développement pour qu'il ne soit perçu que par ceux qui ont l'occasion de l'utiliser. Même s'il offre des points de vue magnifiques.

"The commissioners have plans for this house, prepared under my advices by Mr. T. Wisedell, architect. The conspicuous parts are of axe-finished timber, not to be painted; it is fitted to sit on a saddle of rock, so surrounded by natural low wood, growing on ground declining from it, that while commanding from its upper parts a magnificent outlook the building will scarcely be seen except by those who have occasion to use it." p.55

Éviter de construire un réfectoire temporaire pour cinq ans, comme

" There would be many and serious disadvantages attending the erection of a temporary

vous l'avez proposé.

J'ai préparé une esquisse d'une salle qui serait bâtie sur la couronne de la montagne. Celle-ci serait utilisable en été, pouvant desservir 300 personnes, afin de servir des rafraîchissements. Une autre construction située plus bas dans une position plus protégée devrait être érigée pour accommoder une restauration plus substantielle et pour les besoins hivernaux. Vendre des gâteaux, cigares et boissons gazeuses. Un vestiaire, une galerie ouverte plus large que celle illustrée de l'autre côté du bâtiment sur la perspective A.

Construire de façon peu coûteuse, en bois, dans un style qui s'apparente aux meilleures maisons de ferme françaises du Dominion. Couvrir principalement avec des bardeaux à l'exception de la tour qui est conçu pour évoquer une couronne, celle-ci étant recouverte de tôle ou si vous le pouvez, en cuivre.

La tour serait assez haute pour être vue et pour offrir une vue sur la partie de la ville la plus rapprochée. Le large belvédère jouxtant le corps principal du bâtiment offrirait des vues au dessus ou au travers du sommet des arbres.

Fournir un bâtiment public avec un toit large pour permettre à une

refectory on the mountain adapted to serve your purpose for five (5) years, as you have proposed and, on considering the matter more carefully I have thought it better to submit to you another proposition. I have for this purpose had prepared a study for a plan for a house to be built at the crown of the mountain, in accordance with a suggestion before made to you, which I herewith send. The whole plan would provide tables and seats for nearly 300 visitors at a time but is adapted for the serving only of light refreshments & for summer use, it being assumed that you will have another house in a lower and more sheltered position for a dinner business & for winter. The plan will, upon a little study, sufficiently explain itself. I need only remark that what is named "the bar" is the place for the manager and for the sale of hand articles--cakes, cigars, & soda water &c. The room marked "parcels &c" is a place of deposit for baskets, cloaks &c. for visitors; the space marked "Ombra" is an open gallery or veranda similar to but broader than that showed on the opposite of the house in the perspective sketch A.

The house is designed to be built of wood in a common and inexpensive way, its effect depending on the form & general style adopted, which is not essentially different from that of the best old French farm houses of the Dominion. It is to be covered chiefly with shingles, except the canopy of the tower which is designed to appear at a distance like a crown and to be overlaid with tin--or if you can afford it with gilded copper. The architect has not quite met my intention in the tower but you will recognize the general idea.

I mean the tower to be high enough to be seen from and to command a view over the nearer part of the city and I have arranged a large open belvedere over the main body of the house at a height at which it is expected that more distant views will be obtained over and through the tops of the trees. It is intended that this place shall also be used for the refectory business."

*14 4th April 1876,
to H. A. Nelson

"Have a well provided public house, with so much roofing that in case of sudden showers a large

large population de s'abriter en cas de pluie. Offrir à prix minime ou gratuitement de l'eau chaude pour faire le thé.

Offrir des repas à prix tel que même les plus pauvres puissent s'y permettre un ou deux repas par semaine.

Le plan de 1877 montre un bâtiment important au point culminant de la montagne.

Autres bâtiments

Garder ouvert à l'année un autre bâtiment situé plus bas, dans un secteur plus protégé, à la limite de la Fougeraie (Brackenfell). À proximité, un ensemble d'abris tant pour les hommes que les animaux offrirait les commodités nécessaires à la tenue de pique-niques.

Construire à proximité du bâtiment cité précédemment un ensemble de bâtiments d'entretien: granges, étables, entrepôt, atelier, bureau et résidence du surintendant. Le site est central, facilement accessible, sans être évident depuis les chemins les plus fréquentés.

Le plan de 1877 indique un ensemble important de constructions à la limite de la Fougeraie, (Brackenfell) à l'intérieur de la courbe précédant

company may obtain shelter in it. Let a part of its rent be paid in providing, gratuitously, under constant supervision and in a cleanly and decent way, such accommodations as are necessary for women and children when absent some hours from home. Let it also provide gratuitously, or at a nominal price, hot water for those who want to make tea on the ground.

Make it an easy custom to fall into for all classes of people, even your poorest workingman, to come here by families, once or twice a week, late in the day, during the hot season, to take their evening meal." p.55-56

"Another house in a lower and more sheltered situation to the southward, on the edge of the Brackenfell, is to be kept open through the year. A range of shedding is connected with it, and it is designed to provide for man and beast, more particularly to meet all the requirements of picnic parties in the Brackenfell." p.78

"Adjoining it, is the establishment of the administration: barns, stabling, cart-sheds, storage-yards, tool-rooms, and the office and residence of the superintendent. The situation is chosen as that from which all parts of the park, on an average, will be most easily accessible to loaded teams, or, in other words, taking elevation into account, as substantially the most central for the work to be done. It is also screened by the adjoining high ground from that part of the park which will be the most frequented by the public, and will be conspicuous from none of the main routes of passage. It is well sheltered from the north, and, the back of the stables being set to the west, will have a favorable exposure." p.78

l'accès au réservoir.

Le plan de 1877 montre aussi, mais plus discrètement un bâtiment situé face à un belvédère marquant le début de l'Underfell et de la douce courbe qui longe le pied de l'escarpement.

Eriger une petite auberge où l'on pourrait se faire servir des boissons chaudes et retourner à la maison en une heure.

"There would be a little inn near by at which she could rest, or from which she would perhaps be served with warm milk or tea; after which, varying the return road, within an hour from the time of starting, she would be back again in her armchair." p.61

Créer en plus des bâtiments principaux, quelques abris situés près des principales attractions ou à des endroits choisis pour leur utilité comme protection contre les orages soudains. Ils ne requièrent pas de personnel permanent.

Besides these principal houses, you will need a few shelters at or near selected points of special attraction to which resort can be had in case of sudden showers quicker than it might be to the two principal houses. These will require no constant attendants."

*12 24 February 1876,
H. A Nelson &c.

Prévoir un pavillon sur le monticule à l'est de la promenade Celle qui entoure le réservoir (futur Lac aux Castors).

"There is a pavilion on the knoll to the eastward for overlooking the promenade, and there are gaps in the lines of shade trees,

Offrir des abris à chaque entrée du parc depuis la ville. Ceux-ci pourraient servir non seulement comme abris contre la pluie mais aussi comme lieu de rendez-vous.

"At each of the entrances on the town side of the park, shelters are indicated. These should be larger, and should have roofs and movable blinds or shutters, so they can be made tight on the windward side. They will be made use of, not only as shelters from rain, but as rendezvous for persons agreeing to meet to walk together in the park, or for parties which break up in the park and wish to unite before going home. There are so many other things of more importance to be secured, that these should not be expensive structures, but, eventually, lodges furnishing accommodations similar to those of small railway stations will be desirable in these positions. I would advise you also not to put your money, at present, into elaborate entrance ways." p.80

Ne pas mettre d'argent, pour l'instant, dans des entrées élaborées.

Le plan montre au moins 5 ou 6 abris situés près des limites du parc et de la ville.

Les éléments commémoratifs

Un monument approprié et mis en valeur dans une place publique encadrée de bâtiments apparaîtra particulièrement ridicule et discordant lorsque perçu dans un vaste paysage naturel. Le but principal d'un monument serait mieux desservi lorsque celui-ci est placé dans le cadre de vie quotidien des citoyens plutôt que dans un lieu de loisir où il apparaîtra incidemment comme une forme différente d'amusement.

Exclure tout monument funéraire et tout autre monument qui souligne les différences de religions de race, de politique ou qui peut sembler provoquant ou susciter l'antagonisme

Exclure tout monument qui ne soit pas une oeuvre d'art d'un haut et digne type.

Ne rien accepter jusqu'à temps que vous ayez adopté un plan d'ensemble auquel chaque détail sera subordonné

Bref, ce que je dis semble exclure tout monument et j'admets que l'intérêt public permette d'outrepasser ces règles. Je dis simplement que les monuments ne doivent être admis qu'avec une extrême circonspection.

"I have received an inquiry through your Secretary asking my judgment upon an application for permission to erect a commemorative monument upon the mountain. The character of the monument and the object of commemoration not being stated I can only briefly indicate a few general rules which I think should govern the city in determining questions of this class.

The chance of getting a monument that will not in any position which would be selected for it be in some way out of place is a small one. A monument that would appear appropriate and dignified in a public place of moderate extent framed in by buildings will appear meanly and discordantly in the midst of natural scenery of large scale. And the essential object of monuments is much better served if they are placed in the midst of the people in their daily lives, rather than in positions where they will be chiefly looked upon as holiday sights and seen incidentally to a very different form of amusement.

All funeral monuments and all with which would stir sad associations, all monuments tending to kindle or keep alive differences of creed, of race, of politics or which would be provocative of antagonism of any kind should be excluded.

Finally no monuments should be admitted which are not works of art of a high and dignified type, such as very rarely offer.

Whatever the character of the monument now offered and the occasion of it, I would strongly urge you not to accept it until you have adopted a general plan to which every detail can be systematically subordinated.

I am aware that what I have said would exclude all monuments and I must admit the possibility of public interests which would over rule this position. I can only say therefore that on general principles monuments should be admitted of at all with extreme caution and careful circumspection."

*34 28th April 1877,
to Mount Royal Park Commission

Éviter les ornements qui peuvent sembler appropriées ailleurs, lits de fleurs, fontaines...

"That it does embody a fallacy will be clear to every man of you if he ask himself what would be the difference of attractive effect---literally speaking---if for that object which he has found most attractive, tree, flower-bed, or fountain, in the garden or fore-court, which is altogether the most attractive among all those which he is in the habit of passing, there should be substituted some fine morning a Punch and Judy show, or a hog with its face shaved, dressed in a woman's cap and cloak, seated in an arm-chair facing the street?" p.18

Autres constructions

Installer des bancs et des fontaines à boire à intervalle régulier. Couvrir certains bancs avec un toit pour protéger de la pluie. Couvrir certains autres avec des treillis couverts de vigne. La localisation exacte de ces éléments ne relève pas du plan général d'un territoire aussi vaste.

"Seats and drinking-fountains are expected to be placed adjoining the walks at frequent intervals. Some of these seats should be covered by a tight roof so as to afford shelter in rain; others shaded, either by trees or trellis-work and vines, and some should be open above and screened about for old people, who, in the spring and autumn, enjoy to sit in the sun and out of the wind, but the precise position and character of these things is considered to be a question of detail not belonging to the general plan of so large a ground." p.80

Construire les clôtures en palis de bois fendu, tels qu'utilisés dans les parcs privés d'Angleterre.

"As to an exterior fence, you can have none which will be more suitable for a long time to come, than one of the simplest form of split palings of wood, such as is commonly used for private parks in England." p.80

Le plan montre d'autres constructions dont possiblement un pont au dessus du marais situé entre la Fougeraie et le Sommet.

La séparation des styles

Olmsted ne parle pas clairement de cet aspect de son design dans le texte de 1881. Dans sa correspondance, il mentionne seulement que le réservoir doit être soit naturel soit géométrique.

Cependant, le design de 1877 montre

bien une nette séparation entre les styles formel et informel. En effet, si l'ensemble du parc est de style pittoresque "naturalistic", les alentours du réservoir sont traités de façon clairement formelle: Formes géométriques, multiples rangées d'arbres, traitement dépouillé.

Avant qu'Olmsted ne reçoive la commande de faire un réservoir d'eau potable dans les "Glades", Olmsted avait esquissé une promenade formelle sur l'arête qui relie le véritable sommet au sommet secondaire près de l'actuel Radio-Canada.

Créer un aménagement formel majeur au coeur ou en bordure d'un parc "pittoresque" "naturalistic" constitue d'ailleurs un élément récurrent de son oeuvre: la Fontaine Bethesda dans Central Park, l'axe à Prospect Park.

Ces aménagements prennent habituellement la forme de longues promenades.

Olmsted cherche à créer un contraste marqué entre la ville et le parc de façon à ce que celui-ci offre une valeur curative plus grande face aux problèmes générés par la cité. Il enferme donc ses parcs dans un écrin d'arbres et de verdure.

Dans un extrait sur le Sommet (Upperfell) Olmsted mentionne que le site se prête au pique-nique et aux usages festifs. Comme cet extrait se trouve entouré de citations explicitant la prévalence du charme des scènes naturelles sur les activités sociales il semble exagéré d'interpréter ces clairières comme étant prioritairement des lieux de rassemblement à caractère festif.

La végétation:

Le pastoral et le pittoresque

Le plan de 1877 indique que la plus grande proportion du site devrait être constituée d'aires ouvertes. Même en nuanciant cette affirmation par la remarque de la p.73, concernant la densification des plantation dans certains secteurs, il reste qu'une grande partie de la montagne devrait être constitué de pelouses.

Olmsted créait généralement dans ses parcs un ensemble de clairières aux limites sinueuses ponctuées d'arbres en isolés ou en bosquets. Le "Sheep Meadow" à Central Park, le "Long Meadow" à Prospect Park, et les "Glades" à Montréal sont les très grands paysages pastoraux de ces parcs. De nombreux paysages pastoraux plus intimes marquent aussi ces parcs. À Louisville, le parc Iroquois, le plus comparable au mont Royal, une large pelouse domine le sommet de la colline.

"It needs no planting, except to restore a natural face to the bordering woods, where they have been ill-used. It can easily be made the finest spread of turf on the continent. But it will be best kept, when once well formed, with sheep and not with lawn-like smoothness." p.47-48

Si le plan de 1877 est très clair, la correspondance et le texte de 1881 n'élaborent que très peu sur cet ensemble complexe de paysages pastoraux. Seule la clairière, (Glades) un paysage pastoral issu d'un usage agricole relié à la maison Smith fait l'objet d'une description. Dans celle-ci, il vante les qualités exceptionnelles du site.

Ces vastes espaces ouverts offrent l'encadrement tant souhaité par Olmsted aux vues majestueuses offertes depuis la montagne.

Une note indique que le design de 1877 doit être interprété en densifiant la végétation particulièrement au pied des pentes et le long du bord des chemins et sentiers au pied de l'Escarpe.

"That the indications of the elevation and inclinations of surface, with reference to the discussion of the artificial features, may not be too much put out of sight, trees are not represented standing as closely or as much covering the ground as they are in reality expected to, especially in the lower parts of the declivities, and along the edges of the roads and walks near the base of the Craggs." p.73

encadrement pastoral des points de vue

1874

Des considérations générales artistiques

Considérer systématiquement les milieux naturels comme intouchables simplement parce qu'ils ne sont pas complètement dénués de charme serait une erreur au niveau artistique.

"The error in art, referred to in the last chapter, would preserve and maintain this aspect of mountain scenery, simply because it is a natural aspect, and does not wholly exclude the charm of nature. Would it not be as rational for a farmer to say that because his cows sometimes pick a little food out of boggy vegetation he will not drain the ground and get a field of rich, corn-producing soil?" p.36

Tout en gardant l'aspect naturel des boisés, rendre celui-ci plus charmant tant de proche que de loin, plus charmant que le lent travail de la nature ne peut le faire.

"Thus, you can rapidly establish a new face to the wood which will in truth be equally natural in aspect, and, whether regarded as the foreground of a distant view or looked at closely for its local beauty, far more charming than the best that nature, unenrouraged, would much more slowly give you." p.34

Considérer comme sacrés les centaines d'endroits d'une beauté indescriptible légués par le Jardinier de l'Eden. Les préserver des pieds et des mains sacrilèges. Ce sont les lis des champs et non ceux des jardins qu'il faut considérer comme but.

"I will go further, and tell you if you cannot afford to keep a single man so employed, there are hundreds of little places on the mountain within which, if you can but persuade yourselves to regard them as sacred places and save them from sacrilegious hands and feet, the original Gardener of Eden will delight your eyes with little pictures within greater pictures of indescribable loveliness. And remember that it is the lilies of the field, not the lilies of the garden we are bid to consider.

Considérer que cette beauté ne compense pas pour la rudesse, la grossièreté et la vulgarité des abords des chemins et sentiers aménagés.

"Such beauty as is thus available, will make no amends for rudeness, coarseness, and vulgarity in the borders of your roads and walks; it will but make what is crude and unnatural the more conspicuous, as a jewel set upon soiled linen makes it the more offensive. But when you have natural homes for it, especially with much and rapid inflections of surface, as in the little rocky notches and gaps, dinglets and runlets of the Brackenfell, you need not be afraid of too great a profusion nor too great a variety of perennial and annual plants; of too much color, nor of a growth too intricate and mazy." p.51-52

Améliorer certains endroits, particulièrement ceux dont le relief est accidenté, brèches et fosses de la Fougeraie, ne pas avoir peur d'y favoriser une grande profusion et variété d'annuelles et de vivaces poussant de façon entremêlée.

Éviter de créer des massifs de fleurs annuelles, de végétaux subtropicaux et d'arbustes florifères tels: azalées, rosiers, et autres éléments provenant de serres. De tels aménagements seraient une des façons les plus inconsidérées de gaspiller de l'argent.

"One of the most inconsiderately wasteful ways of spending money on the mountain to which you are liable to be tempted, is that of the introduction upon it of flower-beds, clumps of flowering shrubs, cushions of rhododendrons or azaleas, schools of roses - possibly ribband-gardening, floral embroidery subtropical borders, and whatever is commonly found on a polished lawn of the present fashion in lawns, in a place furnished with propagating houses and wintering pits, and given over to a fashionable gardener." p.50

"The great merit of all the works you and I have done is that in them the larger opportunities of the topography have not been wasted in aiming at ordinary suburban gardening, cottage gardening, effects. We have "let it alone" more than most gardeners can."

FLO to Calvert Vaux,
3rd September 1887

Les travaux sylvicoles

Lettre sur les travaux préparatifs à la construction du chemin.

Enlever les arbres en mauvaise condition en évitant que leur chute n'endommage des arbres en bonne santé.

Confier ce travail à quelqu'un de compétent. Faire en sorte que le surintendant surveille discrètement les travaux d'émondage.

Mettre à nu les racines principales des arbres à enlever et ainsi les exposer au gel. Cette méthode est généralement plus économique que la coupe d'un arbre et l'arrachage de la souche.

"2d I suggest that in all your property trees dead, or badly decayed and dilapidated through decay in their lower parts be uprooted and removed and that where trees have been broken down in their upper parts by ice or otherwise the splintered limbs be sawn off below the injury. Strict instructions should be given to prevent the felling at present of any trees not in an advanced state of decay. The trees to be removed should be blazed by a man who can be trusted in this respect and the trimming or injured trees be constantly watched by a discreet subordinate of the Superintendent. The main roots of trees to be removed may be exposed by shovelling at a distance of from 6 inches to a foot from the trunk before the ground freezes; these roots to be afterwards cut and the tree thrown out leaving a small stump hole to be filled and levelled over. This I have found a more economical process than that of felling the tree and afterwards grubbing the stumps."

*4 30th August 1875,
to Commission

Améliorer les éléments végétaux produira un changement agréable dans l'allure des secteurs délaissés. Abattre des arbres inadaptés ou affaiblis, étêter, soigner les plaies, balancer et protéger les plus vigoureux, planter des conifères bas et vigoureux sur les côtés nord et ouest de façon créer des brise-vent, planter des arbres et arbustes adaptés aux contextes, protéger contre les feux, la vermine et le vandalisme.

"By a little improvement of the elements of growth; removing unsuitable and hopelessly debilitated trees; heading down; healing the wounds; balancing and protecting the more sturdy; planting low and specially hardy conifers and underwood in the northern and western borders, and gradually developing wind-breaks; introducing in each available situation trees and shrubs distinctively adapted to the circumstances; protecting all from fire, vermin, and the violence of man, there is not the least ground for doubt that a great and happy change in the general aspect of even the most forlorn localities would be brought about; a change giving a large return for the necessary investment.

Ne pas appréhender que le nouvel aspect sera moins naturel ou moins montagneux ou moins valable que celui qu'il remplacera.

Nor is it to be apprehended that the new aspect would be less natural, or less mountain-like, or in any respect less valuable, than that which it would supersede. It would surely be much more so." p.36-37

Prévoir les futurs dégagements

"Trees should be planted with references to the

prochains, émonder, élaguer systématiquement. Ne pas entretenir les arbres de ce lieu comme ceux des rues, des vergers ou des forêts commerciales. Ne pas stimuler la croissance d'individus indépendants favoriser plutôt la création de massifs denses et pittoresques. Parfois même, étêter l'arbre dominant pour induire une forte croissance latérale, ce qui est normalement évité en foresterie commerciale. Les arbres émondés atteindront une taille double et un âge dix fois plus grand qu'ils n'auraient atteint autrement.

Couper les vieux arbres laids et malades. Cette laideur résulte souvent d'accidents tels la chute d'autres arbres. Réduire la hauteur des arbres frêles qui sont étouffés par leur voisinage.

vacancies which are to be anticipated, and a constant systematic pruning should be kept up. Thousands of trees could be preserved by good pruning to grow to twice the size, and ten times the age which they are otherwise likely to attain. The pruning required is not that of an orchard, or an avenue, or a forest, but it differs from that taught in scientific economical forestry only so far as the aim should be neither to induce individual symmetry of head, nor long, "clear" timber trunks, but rather a compact and sturdy growth, and heads formed not to stand independently, but picturesquely massing with others, the value of each tree being, as a rule, dependent on an interchange with others grouping with it. Often it will be best to head off the natural leader; often to induce a strong low, lateral growth, such as in economic forestry is to be prevented." p.38

"You can cut out the feebler and uglier of the old trees (their ugliness is due in many cases to the falling of others upon them and other unhappy accidents); shorten in the tops of others more promising, but which have been strained upward in feeble forms to avoid suffocation in the crowd." p.34

"At the time of such excitements a strong tendency has appeared in many minds to assume that the act of tree-cutting marks those who are responsible for it as unsusceptible to the charm of sylvan scenery, and to class them with the old indiscriminately devastating pioneers.

We say that such manifestations of public spirit in respect to the protection of plantations have been frequent." p.3-4

1889

Treatment of public plantations

"Naturally an effect of such manifestations of public sentiment has been to make those in direct superintendence of public plantations, and the governing boards supervising them, extremely reluctant to the use of the axe. In some cases, for years not a tree has been cut down; in others only decaying trees which were prominent eye-sores or dangerous to passers-by, and even when these were to be dealt with the work has been done in stormy

weather, when it was little likely to be observed by visitors, and care has been taken to put the fallen wood out of sight as soon as possible." p.4

1889

Treatment of public plantations

"While no sensible man will deliberately maintain that a tree can never be wisely removed from a public plantation, it will be seen from what has been said that a public sentiment is liable to be cultivated, the effect of which, in numerous instances, may be to keep trees standing for years that might more wisely be cut, and in a general way to *prevent the free exercise of any specially competent judgment upon the question.*" p.5

1889

Treatment of public plantations

"It is in the act of removing trees and thinning woods that the landscape gardener must show his intimate knowledge of pleasing combinations, his genius for painting, and his acute perceptions of elegant and comfortable habitation, the ever-varying of light and shade and the inimitable circumstances of a natural landscape- *Repton.*" p.6

1889

Treatment of public plantations

"It will be observed that all agree that in good practice trees are planted originally much closer than it is desirable that they should be allowed to grow permanently, and that, from every well-planted large body of trees, some are removed every year up to at last eighty years. This for centuries has been the established custom in Great Britain and on the continent of Europe, and it is approved by every American to whom the subject has been one of anything like professional study, whether with reference to the object of sylvan charm of scenery or simply that of growing the largest amount of wood in the shortest time." p.13

1889

Treatment of public plantations

"We may observe that if there can be considered to

be two schools in this respect, we should be classed with that which favors the less uniform use of the axe, and which believes in sometimes sacrificing more the chances for a long and perfect development of trees to the result of a more playful disposition and greater variation of companionship of them. We should, more than some, guard in thinning against making any tree individually conspicuous. We would not have the least confusion between the purpose of a Park and the purpose of an Arboretum." p.13-14

1889

Treatment of public plantations

"Instead of saying that if men are seen to be cutting trees out of a plantation there is a presumption of ignorant or unfeeling management, which, practically, is the prevailing disposition with those expressing the most affectionate interest in our parks, they are agreed in teaching that whenever a year passes in which trees are not cut out of any extensive plantation, there is ground for presumption- that the management is ignorant or neglectful of its most important duty." p.14

1889

Treatment of public plantations

"Individual tree beauty is to be little regard, but all consideration to be given to beauty and effectiveness of groups, passages and masses of foliage. The native underwood is to be planted in thickets and allowed to grow in natural forms, enough of it being introduced to prevent (in connection with the grouping of trees and interspaces of groups, to be formed by the process of thinning the tree plantations), a grove or orchard-like monotony of trunks." p.17

1889

Treatment of public plantations (extrait du General plan for the improvement of the Niagara Reservation, by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux.)

Le plan Fortifications Survey, relevé topographique de l'armée britannique réalisé quelques années avant le projet d'Olmsted montre que celui-ci

proposait de transformer systématiquement les vergers en aires résidentielles.

Les plantations

Créer immédiatement une pépinière, propager et cultiver une grande quantité d'arbres, arbustes et plantes adaptées à la montagne.

«3d. I strongly urge the immediate starting of a nursery and the systematic propagation and cultivation of large quantities of trees, shrubs and plants suitable for the mountain. Early attention to and skilful and energetic management of this department of your business is required by every consideration of prudence and economy. By means of it the ultimate results of your work will be much more satisfactory than it can otherwise be made and you will reach satisfactory results in much less time and at less cost. I press the matter on your attention because I have in other cases I have not been able to make the importance of early and ample provisions in this respect understood and because the occasion for such provisions is much greater in your case than under ordinary circumstances of topography and climate.

Prévoir des provisions rapides et amples permet d'économiser temps et argent. Cette opération est encore plus importante pour vous qu'à l'ordinaire à cause de la topographie et du climat du site. Nommer un contremaître en charge de la production et de l'entretien des végétaux.

I should think it desirable that a foreman be appointed at this time to have special charge under the general oversight of the Superintendent of procuring and caring for material for planting. Special accounts should be kept showing all material procured, the cost of procuring it, the cost of taking care of it and its disposition: an inventory of the stock on hand by[?] taking annually and the deficiencies by death and removal to the park accounted for. It is not essential that the foreman be a man of much gardening knowledge or ability but he should have had some experience in a nursery and a general knowledge of the trees and shrubs commonly growing wild or cultivated about Montreal and in character should be one to whom the Superintendent and the Commission can confidently allow considerable discretion as to the detail of work to be done in his business.

Améliorer le sol immédiatement, labourer, engraisser. Le meilleur endroit pour localiser une pépinière est probablement au nord de la rue Bleury.

I recommend that ground be immediately selected, enclosed and cultivated for the purpose, care being taken to avoid any on which operations of improvement will be soon required (Without being examined the soil which I fear may be too rocky and

speaking only with refence to situation and isolation from other operations, I should think the best place might be north of Blurry Street avoiding the line of Rachel) The ground should be well manured as for a corn crop and ploughed as deeply as practicable this autumn. The trees and plants already on hand may with advantage be immediately transferred to it. Additional stock may be procured principally in two ways: first by collecting native growth, second by importing foreign grown nursery stock.

Recueillir des plantes indigènes aux alentours, particulièrement sur les montagnes les plus près et les vieilles clairières. Choisir préférablement des plants de deux à cinq pieds de hauteur. J'y ajoute une liste d'arbres désirables. Quantité de chacun varie de deux à cinq milles.

As to the first, I advise that your nursery foreman go out in the course of a month from this time into the country in various directions but especially to the nearer mountains and to old clearings which have not been cultivated and now have a young bush growth and select seedling trees and bushes to be taken up and planted in nursery as soon as the leaves begin to fall. Plants from two to five feet in height will be best I append a list of trees desirable to be sought and to be planted in quantities of from two to five thousand each.

Importer aussi des végétaux provenant de pépinières. Je recommande de donner une commande à une large pépinière de Glasgow pour livraison au printemps prochain.

As to the second I should recommend that an order be given to one of the large Glasgow nursery man for twice transplanted seedlings to be shipped by steam next spring."

*4 30th August 1875,
to the Mount Royal Park Commission of
Montreal

Vous avez déjà un surplus de petits ormes, érables (hard), marronniers, ormes blancs, ormes roux. Vous avez simplement besoin de spécimens de plus grand développement. Vous procurer quelques jeunes plans d'ormes pleureurs.

"In my advice about obtaining nursery stock, I took into account the lot of trees you have in nursery, and my list of material to be procured was made in view of it. You have a larger quantity of small elms, hard maple and Horse Chestnut than is needed. Of elms, larger than I had thought. In view of it I should get no more except a few choice specimens of larger size and if, as I suppose, those you have are all of the common white elm, a few seedlings of the Slippery elm if they are found."

*6 16th September 1875,
to H. A. Nelson

Planter des arbres en rangée à intervalles réguliers le long du chemin déjà réalisé ne ferait

"As to your inquiry about planting, a little reflection will show you that if trees could be made to grow in rows at regular intervals on each side of the

qu'accentuer le caractère proéminent rude, artificiel des déblais et remblais effectués. Les travaux ont été fait avec une telle incompréhension des buts poursuivis que je crois que ce serait une véritable économie de démolir le tout et de recommencer. Je serais prêt à contribuer \$ 1000 sur les \$ 5000 de ses honoraires d'engagement pour ce faire. Je suppose qu'il y a peu d'espoir de voir corrigé le chemin d'ici à ce que le réservoir soit creusé (*terre fertile excavée étendue pour modifier les talus et favoriser la croissance). Quand cela sera fait, il sera souhaitable de planter arbres et arbustes non pas en rangées mais plutôt de façon irrégulière, graduellement, en massifs tout en conservant des clairières et des ouvertures lorsque les vues offertes.

Prévoir l'assortiment de végétaux que j'ai recommandé.

Planter comme ce qui a été fait l'année précédente sans système est un gaspillage d'argent.

Planter une pruche légère ou un massif de pins mugho à l'arrière de rochers pour faire paraître ceux-ci plus massifs et pittoresques et de ce fait, protéger les pentes de l'érosion.

present wheel way of your half built road up the mountain they would simply call attention to and make more marked the present prominent, rude, artificial character of the cuttings and embankments between which it is carried. These have been made with such misunderstanding of the purpose with which the road was laid out that I believe that it would be true economy to tear the whole work up and build it over again. {If this could be done I would gladly contribute a thousand dollars to bring this about, myself, so mortifying it is to me.} But if it is out of the question as I suppose it is just now, there is little to be done to improve the road until you begin the excavation for the Reservoir. Every spade full that comes from that should be used with the greatest possible care and judgement to hide and make less conspicuous the unnatural character of the embankment on which the road rests. When this has been done, but not before, it will be desirable to plant trees & bushes near it, not by any means in rows and at regular intervals but naturally, in groups and clusters and thickets, with frequent glades and openings where under favorable circumstances distant views can be best commanded.

What you chiefly need at present is to be getting the proper assortment of trees and shrubs for the purpose growing in proper permanent nurseries, particularly the Siberian trees & others which I recommended you to get as seedlings from Scotland.

Planting such as you did last year without system or design is a waste of money."

*33 26th March 1877,
to H.A. Nelson

"You can, by a little forecast, make them at one point bolder and more picturesque in contour by a fitting buttress of rock than nature, working alone, would be able to do. By inserting little pockets of leaf-mould about this rock, and proper seeds or plants, you can then prevail upon nature to dress it with characteristic mountain forms of foliage and bloom, more interesting than nature would, in a century, otherwise provide. You can put in the way of immediate growth behind this rock a broad dark mass of low mountain pine, or a pensive, feathery and brooding hemlock, educated to a character which nature, left alone,

gives to one of its species in a thousand, to supply the degree of canopy and shadow which will be most effective for your purpose. And, this being done, you are finally relieved of the nuisance and expense which the natural washing down of your abrupt bank would have otherwise entailed." p.33-34

Couper la crête des remblais et la rendre plus douce et gracieuse avec des courbes doubles de surface couvertes avec de la végétation douce et de modestes fleurs sauvages.

"Then, at another point, you can cut back on the crest of your bank and make it gentle and graceful, with long double curves of the surface, dressed with low, soft verdure and decked with modest wild flowers." p.34

Enrichir le sol et favoriser la présence de végétaux bas et autres, pour enrichir les bordures de la route.

"You can enrich the soil and induce a lower growth upon them; and you can everywhere plant at once such trees, shrubs, and herbage as will best harmonize with what you select to stay of this old wood, and best carry out, grace, and enrich the necessary inanimate detail of the immediate road border." p.34

**A Certaines espèces sont disponibles en plus large quantité que nécessaire.

"You have a larger quantity of small elms, hard maple and horse chestnut than is needed."

*6 16th September 1875,
to H.A. Nelson

**B

"All such places can then be decked about with shrubbery and suitable wild flowering plants, naturally disposed, and each have its own distinctive sylvan and idyllic attractions." p.57

**C

" * Read upon this, I beg, simply as giving hints as to how much can be done with little effort, Mr. Robinson's two little books: one upon "Wild Gardening," the other upon "Alpine Flowers" (Murray, London, 1870). The very best things for your purpose are such as, once established and a little guarded, will take care of themselves, propagate and spread, like our common American wild violets." p.51

Les végétaux : tableau

Dans le texte de 1881, Olmsted décrit généralement la montagne de bas en haut sauf à une occasion, à la page 44. La séquence ascendante a été privilégiée pour respecter la logique du reste du texte. Les soulignés sous les espèces de végétaux ne sont pas d'origine, ils ont été ajoutés pour faciliter la consultation.

**1 Planter et des groupes d'arbres tels qu'indiqués sur le plan de design et des rangées brisées ou des bandes étroites plantées à l'extérieur des route de la banlieue. "Clusters, chiefly of elms, American white ash; and white oak may be planted as indicated on the design-map, and broken rows or narrow belts of the same along the exterior suburban roads." p.49

**2 Dans les parties les plus basses et moins rugueuses, les arbres dominants devraient être ceux qui atteignent leur plénitude seulement dans des conditions encore plus basses, plus fertiles et plus douces. Les ormes étant les plus caractéristiques parmi les espèces disponibles. "In the lower and less rugged parts, that is to say, the predominating trees should be such as attain their most perfect character only under conditions still lower, more fertile, and softer; the elms being the most characteristic of those available to you. These parts should also be planted (where screens or wind-breaks are not required) in more open groups, and every fair opportunity taken to leave clean, unbroken surfaces of turf between the groups." p.43

**3 Planter en addition à la végétation dispersée avec des groupes d'arbres des terres basses avec des sous-bois pour obscurcir les parties rocheuses les plus pauvres. Associer les groupes d'arbres avec les rochers et les..... en laissant entre eux des ouvertures gazonnées les plus larges. "It should be planted, in addition to its present scattering growth (largely of basswood rapidly approaching decay), with groups of the lowland trees before mentioned (next above the lowest range), with underwood only to obscure the poorest rocky parts. The groups should be formed generally in connection with the rocks and ledges, leaving between them the broadest turfy openings practicable.

**4 La pousse naturelle des arbustes bas ...sera généralement encouragée, protégée du lessivage et des feux et enrichie de plantations du même type. "The native growth of low shrubs, and particularly of vines, brambles and bracken, will be generally encouraged, guarded from wash and fires, and supplemented by other like plantings." p.46

- **5 À la fourche des chemins, après les dernières maisons du village, la surface se diversifie, des pâturages, des parties de sol rocheux apparaissent. "At a fork of the ways the last of the village houses would be passed, the surface grow more diversified, stretches of pasture land would open on both sides, and bits of stoney ground appear. Presently there would be a rocky bank in a dark shade of hemlocks, its base lost in a thicket of brambles, brake, golden-rod, Soloman's seal, and fringed gentian; preludeing the mountain." p.60
- **6 Utiliser de petites variétés d'arbres, épinettes, sapins et pins, là où des grands arbres sont indésirables. "Various diminutive spruces, firs, and pinnes, may be used alto to advantage where large trees will be undesirable." p.46
- **7 Encore plus bas "Then, lower still, oaks, basswood, butternut, ash, cherry, red maple, and such variety of low trees, bushes, prostrate shrubs, and vines as will be found necessary to obscure all places where the soil is too thin and poor for turf and the rock flot, scaly and uninteresting." p.44
- **8 Dans tous les sites plus humides et ombragés, planter par milliers l'if canadien un conifère avec des baies rouges brillantes. Essayer aussi l'if japonais et l'if anglais. "and in all the more moist, shady places the Canadian yew (an evergreen trailer with large bright berries) should be profusely planted. I would have it grown in seed-beds by thousands. I would make trial also of a Janapese yew (Taxus adpressa) which is hardier on the American Atlantic coast than the English churchyard yew, and much more bushy and graceful, falling very nicely over rocks" p.46
- **9 La végétation naturelle de la Fougeraie est composée largement d'érables dans les parties basses et de pins et de bouleaux plus haut ; rien ne peut être meilleur. "The natural growth of the Brakenfell is largely of maples in the lower parts, of pinnes and birches above; none can be better." p.47
- **10 Il y a quarante ans et plus, leur beauté était beaucoup plus grande qu'à présent principalement à cause de la forêt naturelle composée principalement d'épinettes, de pins et de bouleaux, laquelle avait pour effet de protéger les endroits de surface friable contre le délavement et les glissements de terrain. "Forty years ago, and more, their beauty was much greater than at present, because of a native forest growth chiefly of spruces, pinnes, and birches, which had the effect of checking the territory of that softer surface to wash and slide." p.45

**11 Un peu plus bas

"... Yet, a little lower, the white and red pines and hemlock, the canoe and red birches, the rock mountain, Norway, and moose maples, with underwood and thickets of rowans, wych-hazel, the native honey-suckles, wild currant, fragrant bramble, the Canadian redbud, sumacs, clethra, rhodora, and other thoroughly hardy and strong growing shrubs." p.44

**12 En périphérie de l'abrupt, particulièrement du côté nord, créer de brise-vents qui permettraient aux gens de santé délicate de se récréer deux mois de plus.

"Consequently, the first thing to be done is the planting of outer screens of foliage that will guard against such waste of mountain value. These, on the northern side especially, will be mainly of sturdy conifers, as white and red pine, hemlock, and very hardy dwarf mountain-pines (lightened up a little with white birches, ironwood, and moose-maple), so that in the time they will also provide wind-breaks and temperers by which the park will be made available to the recreation of delicate people one or two months longer than otherwise". p.40

**13 Hautes tablettes de couches et les brèches et les "wash way" entre les rochers massifs formé de feuillage offrent une palette de couleurs.

"The different native sumacs will be specially propagated in the upper shelves of the ledges and in the gaps and wash-ways between the bolder rocks; because, with a little use of the knife, they will not, even when reaching within a few feet of the top, grow upward so much as to obstruct the view from the heights; because they supply the most beautiful of our northern foliage to be looked upon from above (being fountain-like in the disposition of spray spreading out under spray of foliage); and, lastly, because they maintain, as I have before observed, under the most unfavorable circumstances, cheerful qualities of color." p.46

**14 Dans des conditions semblables, peut-être même plus difficiles, là où il ne semble y avoir aucun sol

"Yet, under the same, or even harder conditions, hanging where there seems to be no soil at all, you will find a few sumacs which are pictures of health and contentment; quite as such so as if the seed from which they sprang had happened to fall in a rich, sheltered meadow; more so than if they had been pampered in your lawns and gardens. Look, too, at some of the thorns; and, again, at the ironwood: where it has not been excessively crowded or crippled by fire or violence, you will almost always find it in good health." p.37

**15 Les régions plus élevées, exposées, arctiques et

"On the other hand, in the most elevated, exposed, Artic, and continuously rocky regions, the

continuellement rocheuses.

predominating trees should be those which are found to occur naturally in even more trying situations, certain scrubby pines, for instance (as Banksiana, which grows near Ottawa) and firs, with the lesser birches, hornbeams, and thorns." p.43-44

**16 Les parties plus exposées, sèches et dénudées.

"The most common trees on the more exposed, dry, barren parts of the mountain are such oaks as under congenial circumstances are the stateliest of all northern trees. Examine them closely and (excepting the few white oaks, and these only where they have been a little favored in respect to room)" p.37

Il est possible que l'appellation de certaines espèces ait changé depuis l'époque d'Olmsted.

Liste des végétaux évoqués Arbres feuillus

Acer pensylvanicum érable de Pennsylvanie moose maple p.44	11, 12	
Acer platanoïdes érable de Norvège Norway maple p.44	11	
Acer rubrum érable rouge, plaine rouge red maple p.44	7	
Acer érable hard maple		A
Acer érable rock maple p.44		11
Acer spicatum érable à épis mountain maple p.40		
Aesculus Hippocastaneum marronnier d'Inde horse chesnut		A
Betula bouleau birch p.47		9
Betula bouleau Lesser birch p.44		15
Betula lenta ou populifolia? bouleau rouge ou bouleau gris ? Red birch	11	
Betula papyrifera bouleau à papier, bouleau blanc canoe birch, white birch p.40	11, 12	

Carpinus Caroliniana charme de Caroline hornbeam p.44	15	
Crataegus cenellier thorn p.37, p 43-44	14, 15	
Fraxinus frêne ash p.44	7	
Fraxinus americana frêne d'Amérique, frêne blanc American white ash p.49	1	
Juglans noyer butternut p.44		7
Ostrya virginiana Ostryer de Virginie Ironwood p.37	12, 14	
Prunus Cerisier Cherry	7	
Quercus alba Chêne blanc White oak p.37,49	1, 16	
Quercus rubra Chêne rouge Red oak p.37	16	
Rhus typhina Vinaigrier Sumac p.37, 44, 46		11, 13, 14
Sorbus aucuparia Sorbier des oiseaux Rowan p.44		11
Tilia americana Tilleul d'Amérique Basswood p.44,48		3, 7

Ulmus americana Orme d'Amérique Elm p.43,49	1, 2	
Ulmus rubra Orme gras, roux Slippery elm		
Ulmus Orme Small elm		A
Ulmus pumila? Orme de Sibérie? Siberian trees	7	
Low trees	7	

LISTE DES VÉGÉTAUX ÉVOQUÉS Arbres conifères

Abies balsamea
Sapin baumier
Fir p.44

Abies ?
Sapin ?
Fir (diminutive) p.46 6

Picea 10
épinette
spruce

Picea ? 6
Épinette (naine)
Spruce (diminutive) p.46

Pinus 9, 10
Pin
Pines p.46

Pinus banksiana (Pinus divaricata) 15
Pin gris
Jack pine

Pinus resinosa 11, 12
Pin rouge (pin résineux)
Red pine p.40,44

Pinus strobus 11, 12
Pin blanc
White pine p.40,44

Pinus mugho mughus 12
Pin mugho
Dwarf mountain pines p.40

Pinus 6
Pin (nains)
Pine (diminutive), scrubby p.45 p. 43-44

Tsuga canadensis 5, 11, 12
Pruche
Hemlock p.40,60

sturdy conifers 12

LISTE DES VÉGÉTAUX ÉVOQUÉS Arbustes feuillus

Cercis canadensis Gainier du Canada, arbre de Judée Canadian Redbud	11
Clethra p.44	11
Pepperbush	
Diervilla Lonicera Dierville chèvrefeuille Native suckle honey p.44	
Hamamelis virginiana Hamamelis de Virginie Wych hazel p.44	11
Lonicera Chèvrefeuille Native honeysuckle p.44	11
Ribes Gadellier, groseillier Wild currant p.44	11
Rhodoras	11
Rubus Framboisier, ronce, murier, rosier Fragrant bramble p.44, 46, 60, 11, 12	4, 5, 11
Buissons Bushes	7
Arbustes prostrés Prostrate shrubs	7
Vignes Vines	4, 7
strong growing shrubs	11

LISTE DES VÉGÉTAUX ÉVOQUÉS Arbustes conifères

Taxus canadensis 8
If du Canada
Canadian yew p.46

Taxus adpressa 8
If du Japon
Japanese yew p.46

LISTE DES VÉGÉTAUX ÉVOQUÉS Autres

Brake 5

Braken 4

Solidago 5
Goldenrod
Verge d'or

Polygonatum pubescens 5
Soloman seal
Sceau de Salomon

Fringed gentian 5
Gentiane ?

Viola C
Violette
American wild violet

Wild flowering plant B

L'accessibilité depuis la ville

Retourner à l'intention originale et acquérir la petite superficie prévue initialement comme devant être acquis par la ville mais qui fut, si je comprends bien, exclus des limites du parc par quelque accident. Sa perte serait un défaut grossier et offensant dans le parc.

Pour chaque acre de terrain à acquérir, je puis en indiquer 10 à vendre. Si cette proposition de vente de terrains que j'ai élaboré est insuffisante pour cette acquisition, je pourrais indiquer ailleurs suffisamment de terrains à vendre pour compenser cette acquisition.

Développer adéquatement les parcs et routes de plaisance (« *parkways* ») pour donner aux terrains à développer une façade sur les espaces publics permet de donner aux constructions adjacentes une plus value optimale. Développer la beauté des paysages en donnant un caractère raffiné et fini est inévitablement suivi d'une augmentation spectaculaire de la valeur du terrain. Cette manière de travailler a permis de récupérer une partie des investissements à Londres, Paris, Liverpool, Birkenhead, Sydenham etc. en Europe et en Amérique.

Je n'ai pas été informé du fait que

"The question of buying land applies to a small area originally included in your scheme and until quite recently represented to me as already owned by the city but which by some accident, as I understand, has been left out. Its loss would be a gross and offensive defect in the park. I have simply advised you to adhere to your original intention and recover this piece at any necessary cost. It cannot possibly be worth for any private purpose nearly as much as it is for the purpose of giving completeness to your scheme. For every acre of it necessary to be taken I could point to ten which rather than lose it you could afford to give in exchange. If what I have already suggested as practicable to be spared is insufficient to meet the present views of the Council, I will undertake rather than this necessary piece should be omitted to again modify the plan so that additional land may be thrown out elsewhere equivalent to it in market value."

*30 3rd December 1876,
to H.A. Nelson

«With reference to the particular district to which you present inquiry relates I advised you that it would be best to extend branch parks or parkways through it in such a manner as to give the outer parts the advantage of frontage upon and direct connection with the public ground.

You will also remember that I explained that the development of local landscape beauty and of a refined and finished character in any public ground within or near a growing city, (not the mere construction of roads and the giving of a place the name of a park) was invariably followed by a large rise in the value of the land, favorably arranged for building sites having a frontage upon it and that the method thus suggested of recovering a portion of the cost of the improvement of such grounds had been successfully followed in London, Paris, Liverpool Birkenhead, Sydenham and other places in the old country as well as in the United States."

*32 23rd February 1877,
to H.A. Nelson

"Until this moment I had not heard that the

cette stratégie ait été remise en cause. Elle semblait pourtant universellement approuvée. Vendre tous les terrains acquis en surplus sans suivre la stratégie que j'ai élaboré ne permettrait pas de profiter des avantages monétaires de nos développements.

wisdom of this policy was questioned by any one. It has often been referred to by your Commissioners and others of the Council as if universally approved. But now without mentioning by what arguments a reversal of it can be recommended you advise me that a proposition is entertained to sell all of the property in question in such a manner as to deprive the city of any of the advantages designed to be secured by it and upon the question thus arising you ask my opinion."

*32 23rd February 1877,
to H.A. Nelson

Avant d'aborder la description des différents secteurs Olmsted réévalue la pertinence des limites du parc en fonction de l'accessibilité depuis la Ville et des atmosphères à créer.

La superficie couverte par le plan était de 530 acres. 470 sont propriété de la ville. De cette superficie, 30 servira pour des réservoirs et des rues à l'extérieur du parc.

"The area which has been mapped and under definite consideration with reference to the plan has an extent of 550 acres. Of this, I have regarded 470 acres as already held by the city; out of which, 30 is to be set off for the reservoirs, and for streets outside the park proper. Border strips of the purchased land remaining, which (provided certain restrictions can be made as to the manner in which they shall be used) can be spared from the park, and which I recommend to be sold, will deduct an additional area of 60 acres.

Vendre certaines parcelles déjà acquises totalisant environ 10 acres pour financer l'achat de certains terrains, d'une superficie égale, essentiels au bon fonctionnement. 60 autres acres pourraient être retranchés du parc selon certaines modalités. La superficie du parc serait de 380 acres.

A rectification of boundaries of the remaining land, which is a part of my proposition, would require the city to obtain land which it does not now own to the extent of ten acres, and would allow an equal amount to be thrown out in addition to that before stated. This is arranged with reference to possible exchanges with private owners.

Des 80 acres que vous détenez et qui devraient être échangés ou vendus, 56 sont situés la plus près de la ville et positionnés de telle façon que les améliorations apportées profitent aux autres. Ces 56 acres sont découpés en

Of the 80 acres of land you now hold, which it is proposed should be exchanged and sold, 56 are in that part of the property nearest the town, and in such relations to that reserved for public use, that any judicious step in the improvement of either will benefit the other. This (56 acres) you will see shown on the plan in building plots, suitable for villas and cottages

lots utilisables par des villas et des cottages reliés par des routes faciles à gravir.

Les routes planifiées entre le parc et les terrains à vendre optimisent les avantages pour le public et minimisent les coûts.

Par rapport aux intérêts de la ville, je crois que les limites du parc ne sont pas heureuses. L'espace entre les propriétés Allan et Redpath est si restreint. Quelques verges de plus auraient ajouté beaucoup à la valeur de la propriété. Élargir le parc à même les propriétés Allan et Redpath, c'est-à-dire entre les rues Peel et Redpath-Crescent aurait été essentiel à la création d'une route large qui puisse facilement être gravie.

Lorsque votre cité prospérera, une rue reliant le sud au nord sera requise aussi près que possible de la limite ouest du parc.

Malheureusement, la topographie exclue toute connexion avec le parc. Les changements à la limite ouest que je recommande ont simplement pour but d'éviter les coins maladroits et inélégants.

Acquérir entièrement la propriété de Sir Hugh Allan. Le fait de laisser les limites des propriétés privées générer une frontière en forme de queue d'aronde causera éventuellement maints

fronting on the park, and laid open by winding roads of easy grade." p.68-69

That is to say, there are ten acres of land to be deducted in small bits, and ten acres in small bits to be added. (All these are estimates in round numbers). With these deductions and adjustments, the area remaining for the park proper would be 380 acres.

"The roads now proposed between the park and the land to be sold are, however, so adjusted to the topography, that this land may be opened for such private uses as will be consistent with the interests of the public, to the best advantage, at the least cost." p.69

"Taking a large view of the interests of the city, I can not say that I think the boundaries of the park entirely fortunate. It is much to be regretted that you should be so cramped between the Craggs and the Allan and Redpath properties. A few yards greater breadth here would add more to the value of the park than you lose by throwing out double as many rods elsewhere. It is unfortunate also that the boundaries of the park do not fall so that a good broad road of easy grade can everywhere follow them. p.70-71

I must make an unpleasant suggestion in recommending an early consideration of the question whether, if your city prospers, the time may not come when a thoroughfare from north to south will be required as near as practicable to the west boundary of the park. I am sorry that the topography forbids any arrangement for the purpose in connection with the park. The slight changes of the west line of the park which I recommend, in addition to those already arranged, are designed only to avoid waste from awkward corners and misfits." p.71

"The policy originally adopted of dovetailing the city into the park on the east, by a system of capes and bays, determined, I presume, simply by the accident of private occupation, will eventually cause a good deal of inconvenience. Following my own judgment, I should have planned to sweep it entirely away, west

inconvenients. J'aurais du pouvoir planifier à partir de la ligne est de la propriété de Sir Hugh Allan en allant vers l'ouest et obtenir un arrangement plus économique quel que soit le coût des travaux requis.

J'ai la conviction que tout coût sera bientôt dépassé par les avantages gagnés tant par le public que par les propriétaires.

À l'est de la propriété Allan, une portion des terrains déjà acquis en référence auxquels j'ai préparé mes plans a été éliminée. Si je n'en avais pas cru une partie indispensable je n'aurais pas planifié de la même façon les chemins, une bonne partie de ceux-ci étant déjà réalisés. Ceci dit, j'ai adopté dans ma dernière révision du plan, un compromis qui harmoniserait tous les intérêts.

Créer les rues suivant une trame orthogonale dans les secteurs très en pente, c'est-à-dire, près de la montagne au sud de la rue Université n'est pas approprié. Éviter que les chevaux aient de la difficulté à gravir la pente.

Le plan de 1877 et de longues citations montrent qu'il considérait la trame orthogonale comme n'étant pas appropriée entre la rue Sherbrooke et

of the east line of Sir Hugh Allan's grounds, and obtained a more economical arrangement at any necessary cost.

I feel sure that it could be at no cost that would not soon be outweighed by advantages gained both by the public and by the property owners.

East of Sir Hugh's, on the other hand, there is a body of land in the park, as represented in the maps given me, but which, since my plan has been formed with reference to it, I have been advised will have to be thrown out. This would be a great value to be retained. There is no other which could be sooner and at less cost made serviceable. I should not have laid out roads in other parts of the park as I have done, had I not counted on this land, and, much work having already been done, reckoning upon it, I consider a part of it indispensable. I have, therefore, adopted, in the last revision of my drawing, a compromise arrangement, which, when well considered, will, I sincerely trust, harmonize all interests." p.71

You have, unfortunately, used in Montreal the common frontier method of laying out streets, of which the only recommendation is that it requires no thought, and can be as well done by an infant after a month's schooling in a kindergarten as by the ablest engineer, and it happens, in consequence, that south of University Street there is no way of approaching the mountain at all suitable for general driving.

A pony, which would easily take a phaeton with a lady and children to the top of the mountain, if driven around by the way of Bleury Street, would be entirely unequal to taking the same load up such grades as those of Peel Street (1 in 7), or Mc Tavish Street (1 in 9). p.71

le parc. Elle forçait la création de pentes 1 dans 7 sur Peel, 1 dans 9 sur McTavish et rend impossible le raccordement à Drummond à moins de créer un zigzag. Ces pentes sont inconfortables et peuvent même s'avérer dangereuses.

LA SUCCESSION DES MISES EN SCÈNE

Les limites des secteurs

Dans sa correspondance, Olmsted ne mentionne à peu près pas les vocables "Côte Placide, Piedmont, Underfell, Cragfoot. Seuls l'Upperfell, Brackenfell, Crag et Glades apparaissent à l'occasion.

À notre connaissance aucun plan d'Olmsted n'indique les limites entre les secteurs. Aussi, a-t-il fallu les déduire de descriptions apparaissant dans le texte de 1881. Les citations d'Olmsted décrivant les bâtiments et la végétation dans ces secteurs n'ont pas été répétées, sauf exception, mais peuvent être consultées aux sections afférentes.

La Côte Placide

La calèche avançant à l'amble avec le moins d'occasions d'éveiller des sentiments négatifs aura quitté la ville et traversera une douce et calme rue ombragée de banlieue évoquant un village campagnard.

"but the carriage, moving at a steady pace, and with the least occasion to awaken sadness, irritation, anxiety, or impatience, would, in a few moments, have slipped easily out of town, and be passing along a shady, soft, and quiet suburban street, like a village highroad.

Bordé d'un côté de cottages, puis les arbres passeront de lignes à des groupes, puis de groupes à des bocages. Le village serait divisé par un joli espace vert à la surface ondoyante ondulée bordée par une route courbée pour éviter les pentes trop fortes. Puis en

This would be lined on one side with cottages, before which trees would be rapidly falling out of lines into groups and spreading from groups into groves. The village would be divided by a pretty open green with a quietly undulating surface, skirting which our road would bend away to avoid too steep a course. Then, getting more and more out of town, it would wind along with gentle curves as the movement of the

quittant la ville, entourer courbes douces, les ondulations de terrain et les ouvertures "among" les arbres.

ground and the openings among the trees should invite. (This may be the Côte Placide of my plan)" p.60

Créer un quartier de banlieue de la plus grande qualité.

"Also, if properly used, it will add greatly to the effect of the views down the great valley from the northern heights, for, with lofty trees along its border, it will give greater distance and obscurity to the buildings in the adjoining quarter of the town, and form a rich and consistent foreground to a scene which, under certain atmospheric conditions, is hardly surpassed among all those of its class upon which the world has fixed the highest value." p.49

Vu des hauteurs du côté nord.

Créer entre la ville et la dureté de la montagne, une transition moins sauvage et plus placide.

"It is desirable to interpose between the city and the ruggedness of the mountain an intermediate passage of scenery of a less picturesque, more beautiful, less wild and romantic, more comely and placid type, and the ground in question offers an opportunity which, properly improved, will answer that purpose." p.70

Conserver et accentuer le contraste entre ce secteur et la nécessaire dureté du Sommet (Upperfell).

"Its value is great, if properly used; as, with reference to your possible scale of scenery, it will represent the opposite note to the necessary sternness of the Upperfells." p.49

Laisser accessible tôt au printemps et tard l'automne alors que le Sommet est exposé à des conditions climatiques trop rigoureuses pour certaines personnes à la santé fragile.

"In the early Spring and the late Autumn there will be many days when this lower park will be available for recreation, while the air of the upper would be found too harsh to be agreeable or useful, especially to delicate persons." p.70

Même rendue aussi agréable que possible la partie inférieure ne pourra limiter certains déplacements vers le sommet.
"classes" ???

"Even when, however, you shall have made the lower part of the park as convenient and attractive as possible, it will still be hard to limit the movements of all these classes to that region or to compel them to take carriage to go higher." p.77

Le plan de 1877

Les rues appelées aujourd'hui Mont-Royal, Marie-Anne, Rachel, Duluth et du Parc se prolongent dans le parc en suivant un tracé sinueux qui évite les pentes fortes. Le chemin des calèches du parc prolonge la rue Rachel modifiée. Les formes ovoïdales délimitées par ces prolongements des rues sont pour la plupart divisées en lotissement pour des villas et des cottages. Environ 100??? lots apparaissent ainsi. Les espaces à développer sont non seulement des aires ouvertes mais aussi un verger. Un îlot ovoïdal plus large que les autres est voué à devenir le "lower park". Une large pelouse. Toutes ces rues sont bordées de rangées d'arbres, principalement des ormes (voir végétation).

5 petits abris marquent les entrées de la Côte Placide et du "lower park".

Le Piedmont

Offrir dans ce secteur, une expérience forestière complète, à ceux qui n'ont pas le temps ou l'endurance pour faire l'ascension de la montagne.

"By "properly used", I mean, however, not only so used that its present moderate contrast of character with the more rugged parts of your property should be increased, but that it shall also be adapted to provide a measurably complete sylvan experience in itself for visitors who have not time or, in the inclement part of the year, physical endurance for the ascent of the mountain." p.49

Exposer les rochers aussi massifs que possible. Empiler occasionnellement des pierres libres sur le dessus des rochers pour faire paraître ceux-ci plus massifs. Faire couvrir de vignes ou couvrir de deux pieds d'épaisseur de bon sol.

"Wherever there are rocks in this district, they should either be exposed as boldly as possible (other loose rocks being sometimes laid upon them, to make the incident more decided), and overgrown with vines, or they should be covered, at least two feet deep, with good loam and soil." p.49

Entre deux lisières de roc là où le conseil a prévu un "Pest house" se trouve un champ doux de bon sol

"On the slope below the Underfell, toward Saint Jean Baptiste, there is a district lying between two low but well-defined ledges of rock, being that in which the

où pousse un verger. Ce secteur ressemble au "fell land" mais est moins interrompu de blocs de pierre et plus propice à la culture.

City Council has ordained a pest-house, and including a considerable smooth field of fair soil, on which is growing an orchard. This generally resembles the fell-land, but is less broken by lumpy rocks, and more amenable to cultivation. I designate it The Piedmont." p.48

Then moving along easily higher and higher, the ground would become more rocky, the herbage more tufty, till, at a turn in the road, views through the trees would open: on one side, of distant steeples over houses and gardens; on the other, of a stretch of woodland. (This from the Piedmont)." p.60-61

Associer des espèces en formant des groupes pour former des lignes extérieures douces et harmonieuses et la plupart sinon tous les arbres devraient être d'une espèce et éviter dans les groupes adjacents des arbres de caractéristiques contrastantes, l'objet n'étant pas l'aspect pittoresque de chaque endroit mais d'augmenter les qualités caractéristiques de l'Escarpement et de ses abords.

In forming the groups, species should be associated which are inclined to form soft and harmonious outlines together, and most, if not all, the trees of each group should be of one kind, and the adjoining groups not of trees of strongly contrasting qualities, the object here being not local picturesqueness, but a softer charm enhancing the characteristic quality of the fells and crags." p.48

Créer une transition qui rehausse l'esthétique des pentes rocheuses et de l'Escarpement.

La Pente rocheuse (Underfell)

Les vues deviennent de plus en plus confinées puis du côté gauche, une ouverture entre les arbres permet d'apercevoir une pente pittoresque ombragée par des arbres qui y sont accrochés.

"Then, going on, the prospect on each side would be more confined, but by glimpses between the trees we should be aware that not far away to the left there was a great picturesque declivity shadowed by hanging woods.

Puis, du côté droit, une large ouverture entre les arbres permet de découvrir une vue lointaine vers le nord-ouest. Il faudrait regarder un large paysage campagnard avec des champs, des vergers, des jardins, des granges, des clochers de village, le tout entre des collines bleutées.

Before our attention had been fully fixed in the direction, it would be drawn off by a broad gap among the trees to the right, and we should find that we had already attained a sufficient elevation to command a far view to the northwest. The carriage would stop, and we should look upon a broad country-side with woods and fields, orchards and gardens, farm-houses and village spires, all sloping gently from distant blue hills down to a stream hidden among the trees of the intervening dale. (A peaceful, soothing prospect, this may be cheaply made, in which, though accessible in twenty minutes from the Post Office, and at a third the town may be left far out of sight and further out of minds.)

If it is the first airing of the convalescent here might well be the end of her day's journey." p.61

Les paysages deviennent plus sauvages et forestiers, la canopée couvre le chemin. La route change?? là où l'éperon du bord les éboulis et les anciennes voies d'eau conduisent de plus en plus haut, toujours avec des pentes faciles et sans effort apparent, suivant un tracé invité par la nature, les arbres se tenant près des côtés de la route et entassés en sous-bois. Entre et sous le feuillage surplombant, capter des éclairs dur la droite du côté de l'escarpement, ponctué?? avec des arbustes conifères ronces??, plantes rampantes, mousses et plantes alpines florifères. De l'autre côté, à travers une ombre dense, des percées heureuses vers le fleuve étincelant et les grands espaces ensoleillés.

"But going on after a few minutes halt the scenery would become wilder and more forest-like, and as the road, winding where spurs of the ledge, and heaps of fallen rock, and old water-ways gave opportunity, led higher and higher, but always by easy grades, and, without apparent effort, following a course invited by nature, the trees would stand closer and the roadsides be crowded by underwood. Between and beneath overhanging foliage, glimpses would be caught, on the right, of the near crag-side decked with dark bushy evergreen and draped with creepers, mosses, and blooming Alpine plants; on the other hand, out of deep shade, through chance loopholes of the verdant screen, of a distant gleaming river and a sunny expanse beyond it (From the Underfell." p.61-62

Le plan de 1877

Le chemin des calèches traverse ensuite un secteur qui était partiellement ouvert probablement un ancien pâturage. Des clairières seraient conservées mais encadrées avec des plantations complémentaires.

Dans le Piedmont comme dans la Côte Placide, les sentiers destinés aux piétons sont généralement situés à quelques mètres des chemins de calèches. (répéter dans chemins)

Le chemin des calèches y est marqué d'un virage serré à la limite de la propriété Frothingham, qui sera plus tard englobé par l'université Mc Gill. Un chemin aurait traversé cette propriété reliant par le fait même l'actuelle rue Université (alors Carleton ?) à la courbe ci-haut mentionnée. X verges plus loin, une courbe plus douce donne le signal d'une longue randonnée en courbe vers l'ouest. À l'intérieur du virage se trouve une auberge qui aurait offert des repas légers. Ainsi, une personne pourrait en partant de la ville, se désaltérer et être de retour en moins d'une heure. Dans ce secteur, les sentiers piétonniers se détachent plus du chemin des calèches.

L'Escarpement (Craggs)

Le roc, qui est son trait distinctif, se désagrège sous l'action du gel, et les formes du paysage sont partiellement rocheuses. Conséquemment sa surface est tendre, d'apparence pauvre et prend des formes à demi rocheuses. Un mélange de terre et de pierre. De larges espaces sont simplement des plans fortement inclinés avec une végétation dispersée,

"In parts, the rock which is its distinguishing feature, is of a quality which rapidly decomposes under the influence of frost; consequently, its surface has a comparatively soft, weak appearance, and takes forms which are only half rocky. It results, also, that thin bodies disintegrated rock and earth occur, the surface of which is more or less loose, so that no soil can be firmly bedied upon them. Large spaces have, therefore, the landscape quality simply of a steeply inclined plane with a scanty vegetation of corse plants, chiefly annual, or a feeble seedlings of trees which are to be seem uprooted or slowly starved to

principalement d'annuelles ou de faibles plantules d'arbres qui seront probablement déracinés ou qui mourront lentement.

death." p.44-45

Ne pas simplement restaurer tant bien que mal les anciennes conditions.

"You will by no means be content, however, with aiming to restore, as far as practicable, the old conditions. While trying to guard against landslides and destructive washing, and seeking to establish firmer and less barren surfaces, the growth of large trees will be prevented where they will have either of three results: first, to hide the bolder and more effective rocks in views from below; second, to interrupt, when of mature growth, the best distant views from above; third, where, from growing tall and spindling and unsupported by adjoining wood of the same character, they will be specially liable, when loaded with ice, to be broken or uprooted by high winds. (From the appearance of the stumps and wreckage which I found in 1874. I judged this to have been a chief cause of the destruction of the old forest)." p.45-46

"While" pour éviter les glissements de terrain et d'établir des surfaces plus fermes et moins nues.

Ne pas faire pousser de grands arbres. D'en bas ceux-ci cacheraient les parois rocheuses. D'en haut ceux-ci obstrueraient les points de vue. Chargés de neige ou exposés aux vents ils sont facilement décapités ou déracinés.

Choisir des arbres au développement bas et compact. .

"Trees of a low and compact sort will be chosen;" p.46

Les vinaigriers indigènes seront propagés dans la partie supérieure et entre les gros blocs de pierre. Ils n'obstruent pas la vue depuis les hauteurs, ils offrent les plus beaux feuillages vu du dessus et ils gardent leurs coloris joyeux dans les pires circonstances

"The different native sumacs will be specially propagated in the upper shelves of the ledges and in the gaps and wash-ways between the bolder rocks; because, with a little use of the knife, they will not, even when reaching within a few feet of the top, grow upward so much as to obstruct the view from the heights; because they supply the most beautiful of our northern foliage to be looked upon-from above (being fountain-like in the disposition of spray spreading out under spray of foliage); and, lastly, because they maintain, as I have before observed, under the most unfavorable circumstances, cheerful qualities of color. p.46

Le plan de 1877

À l'extrémité nord du parc, alors que les limites du parc étaient beaucoup plus restreintes qu'aujourd'hui, Olmsted planifiait un sentier piétonnier qui multipliait les zigzags. Ce sentier reliait le sentier existant au pied de l'escarpement avec la boucle du sommet du chemin des calèches.

Au pied de l'escarpement, se trouve le chemin des calèches (lower). Pour les piétons qui veulent gravir rapidement la montagne, Olmsted propose un escalier dans l'axe de l'actuelle rue Duluth, à peu près où la dénivellation est la plus dramatique entre le haut et le bas de la montagne.

Olmsted projetait aussi, un grand escalier un peu à l'est du grand escalier actuel. Cet escalier aurait été lové dans le creux de la dépression.

Le chemin des calèches, dans ce secteur, suit une trajectoire qui épouse la courbe de l'escarpement en grim pant légèrement.

Même le plan montre certaines ouvertures dans le couvert végétal. Olmsted rappelle que la végétation doit être nettement plus dense que les indications du plan ne l'illustrent.

L'Entrée Peel (Cragfoot)

Eviter de créer une route carrossable depuis la rue Peel, car, même en faisant de mon mieux, le résultat risque fort d'être fort hideux tant pour des considérations de confort que de raffinement d'esthétique paysagère.

"Looking either to comfort in ascending the mountain or to the most refined art in landscape effect I should advise no approach from Peel Street. If the commission think it necessary I am willing to do all I can to make the best of it, but I fear that at its best it will be an ugly job. ..."

*7 11th October 1875,
To H. A. Nelson.

À l'entrée Peel, créer la première

«At the Peel Street entrance, please have the first

courbe comme mes plans l'indiquent, i.e. en grugeant dans le talus. Avoir su que ces travaux auraient été aussi mal faits, j'aurais planifié la courbe d'entrée encore plus large.

curve carried into the bank fully as far as my plan indicates. If I had supposed you could have the work done as cheaply as Mr Radford reports, I should have made the entering curve greater."

*8 28th December 1875,
To H. A. Nelson.

Ce district que je nomme "Cragfoot" contient le petit réservoir et l'infortunée route en zigzag qui détruit le caractère naturel du lieu.

"The small district below the Crag, between the Brakenfell and the Underfell, I have called The Cragfoot. It is that containing the little reservoir and the unfortunate zigzag road from Drummond Street, by which its natural character is destroyed. The native wood should be thickened, and the sides of the road planted densely and simply with thick bodies of ordinary underwood; the object being to make the artificial features unobtrusive, and induce a simple, calm, forest effect." p.48

Renforcer le boisé naturel.

Planter densément d'espèces ordinaires des sous-bois, Le but étant de rendre les éléments artificiels discrets et de créer un effet forestier simple et calme.

Le plan de 1877

Ce secteur correspond à la partie de la propriété où avaient été abattus tous les arbres avant la création du parc. Cet événement avait d'ailleurs accéléré la création du parc. La ville avait refusé d'acheter les terrains adjacents (voir limites du parc) Olmsted regrettait amèrement tant l'exiguïté des limites de ce secteur que le fait qu'il soit situé au haut de rues aux pentes excessives. En conséquence, il a préparé, en vain, une série de plans pour proposer un meilleur tracé pour accéder au parc depuis le centre-ville.

mauvaise exécution

à proximité de l'intersection des Pins et du chemin des calèches, il indique un abri

sentiers de chaque côté du zigzag.

chemin des calèches replat et même

pente inverse

L'accès depuis le centre-ville rencontre le chemin des calèches principal à faible distance d'un petit réservoir construit dans ces années là. Le réservoir n'apparaissant pas dans les plans de l'armée. Il n'est pas mentionné dans la correspondance ou dans le texte final. Sa forme rectangulaire laisse croire qu'il ne s'agit pas d'un design d'Olmsted. Vis-à-vis ce réservoir, le chemin des calèches principal offre une légère pente inversée, ce qui permet aux chevaux de se reposer.

La Fougeraie (Brackenfell)

L'Escarpement passé, le sous-bois devenant plus dispersé, le boisé plus ouvert, la route conduirait maintenant le long d'une pente montagnaise gagnant graduellement en quiétude avec des rayons de soleil éclairant les vallées couvertes de fougères,

lequel inclus tout le terrain escarpé, brisé, principalement couvert au sud des rochers escarpés.

Les deux derniers districts devraient être traités comme une forêt avec de nombreuses ouvertures couvertes de fougères. La végétation naturelle de la fougeraie comprend une grande proportion d'érables dans les parties inférieures, de bouleaux et de pins au-dessus. Rien ne peut être meilleur. Il s'agit simplement d'enlever les arbres les plus "pauvres"? , de briser les groupes et massifs, d'ajouter du jeune feuillage ainsi que d'émonder soigneusement.

"The crags passed, the underwood becoming more scattered, the wood more open, the road would now lead along a mountain slope of constantly gaining quietness, with gleams of sunlight falling upon ferny dells (the Brackenfell), p.62

which includes all the steep, broken ground, much overgrown with braken, south of the Crags.

The two latter districts should be treated as a forest with numerous ferny openings. The natural growth of the Brackenfell is largely of maples in the lower parts, of pines and birches above; none can be better. It simply needs to have the poorer trees taken out, to be broken a little into groups and groves, and to have younger low foliage added, on their skirts. This and careful pruning". p.47

La Clairière (The Glades)

jusqu'à ce que, encore, la cime des arbres à droite et à gauche s'ouvre. La calèche s'arrêtera et par dessus une surface "bosky" descendant rapidement, un autre point de vue sera rejoint révélant un plan d'eau de type lac placé dans une large vallée s'élargissant au loin dans un horizon languissant par delà lequel les brouillards du soir s'accumuleront pour accueillir le soleil couchant.

Occuper la prairie avec un réservoir briserait le design élaboré jusqu'à présent. Cependant, même s'il s'agit d'une atteinte sous certains aspects, Olmsted tout ce qu'il peut pour en tirer avantage.

Il existe deux façons de déterminer la forme générale du réservoir.

La première serait de le traiter comme un lac naturel. Dans ce cas, je devrais être libre d'élaborer une forme autre que celle qui m'a été transmise par M. Lesage - créer des îles, des pointes et des baies, en créant des berges gazonnées, arbustives, rocheuses ou sablonneuses. en évitant les bords ou chapes en pierre rigide.

Éviter toute résidence barrière ou toute autre construction évidente.

Abandonner le concept d'ambiance naturelle si un de ces éléments de design est inacceptable. Adopter plutôt un design symétrique aux formes géométriques comme un cercle ou une ellipse ou toute autre forme qui épouse agréablement la

until again, the tree tops opening to the right and left, the carriage would stop, and over a rapidly declining, bosky surface another outlook would be gained, revealing a lake-like expanse of water lying in a broad valley stretching far away to a faint horizon, beyond which the evening mists would be gathering to receive the declining sun." p.62

" The decision to occupy the meadow with a reservoir quashes the design so far as yet formed and while it is a great injury in certain respects, I shall do all I can to turn it to advantage in others."

*22 16th June 1876,
H.A. Nelson.

«There are two ways between which to choose in the interest of the park in determining the general form of the reservoir.

One is to treat it as a natural lake. In this case I should want to be free to give it a good deal more of variety of outline than is indicated on Mr Le Sage's sketch--to introduce islands, points and bays. I should also wish to plant in some parts closely about it and to form a margin of turf, bushes, natural rock and sandy beaches. Anything like a coping or a rigid stone edge would be out of the question. No gate house or other construction [should] be made conspicuous.

If, therefore, any of the above requirements would in his judgment be inadmissible, I should at once wholly abandon the idea of a natural form.

The alternative would be a symmetrical geometrical figure--as an ellipse or a circle. Or something like the enclosed would answer which would fit the topography very fairly.

With any such figure the shore should be, if not of cut masonry, a perfect clean line; there would be no trees overhanging the water and there might if desired be a railing and any desirable building. I should propose in this case to plan a grand

topographie. Adopter, pour la berge, une ligne pure préférablement en maçonnerie coupée, surmontée d'une balustrade. Éviter les arbres qui surplombent l'eau. Faire en sorte que cet espace devienne la grande promenade formelle.

Si l'on regarde uniquement l'intérêt du parc, créer un réservoir sur la montagne serait indésirable.

Depuis que j'ai été informé que la cité a décidé que le réservoir mesurerait de 8 à 12 acres et que son implantation serait étudiée quasi-exclusivement en fonction de son apport au plan du parc. Je suis d'accord pour désigner un réservoir comme élément d'intérêt du parc.

Si comme j'avais été originalement averti, la Commission peut acquérir un vaste terrain entre la propriété actuelle et le cimetière Côte-des-Neiges afin d'agrandir le parc dans cette direction et si on crée un bassin parfaitement naturel de 4 ou 5 acres avec des berges pittoresques je ne verrai aucune objection, mais celui-ci paraîtra même souhaitable.

J'assume, pour l'instant, que vous souhaitez un mur en pente dont le dessus serait 2 ou 3 pieds plus haut que le niveau de l'eau et qu'il n'y aurait aucune objection à poser du gazon entre le mur et le chemin d'équitation. Aux angles,

promenade of a formal outline corresponding to that of the Reservoir and following it as closely as practicable.

I should like your judgment, after conference with Mr Le Sage, as to the elevation which would probably be preferred for the water surface."

*23 17th June 1876,
W. J. Picton.

"You are probably aware that my professional opinion being asked I advised your Common Council that, with reference to the interest of the city exclusively in the park, a reservoir on the mountain was undesirable; "

*24 5th July 1876,
To Louis Lesage.

"Since then I have been officially informed that the city has finally decided that a reservoir of from 8 to 12 acres in area shall be established in the mountain but that except as to the matter of elevation and area its plan may be studied almost exclusively with reference to its bearing on the plan of the Park, and I am accordingly instructed to design the reservoir as a feature of the park.

If, as I was originally advised, the park commission could obtain a considerable body of land between their present property and the Cote des Neiges Cemetery and extend the park in that direction and if the proposed store of water could be formed and maintained as if in a perfectly natural basin of not more than four or five acres in extent with picturesque shores, I should consider it not only an unobjectionable but a desirable feature.

*24 5th July 1876,
to Louis Lesage

I assume for the present that you would wish a slope wall as indicated the top of which would be 2 or 3 feet above the water level line, and that there would be no objection to a turf margin between the slope wall and the bridle road. At the angles some masonry would be required but I presume that rock faced stone such as could be cheaply obtained on the ground would

de la maçonnerie sera requise mais je présume que de la pierre à face éclatée tel que pouvant être obtenue de façon économique répondrait aux intentions.

Pour éviter la monotonie des vues sur l'eau depuis la promenade, planter des groupes d'arbrisseaux hauts dans les angles intérieurs.

Planter des arbres générateurs d'ombre sur les limites entre les différents cheminements de la promenade, une large vista étant ouverte sur ces petits axes révélant une perspective sur la vallée par delà la Côte-des-Neiges à travers l'eau depuis la promenade du côté est et sur la colline à l'arrière.

Ni pour ouvrir un chemin entre le réservoir et le chemin de la Côte-des-Neiges, ni pour toute autre raison, éviter vaillamment toute construction de bâtiment qui couperait ou perturberait la vue.

1 Crée le pôle de rencontre autour du lac plutôt qu'au sommet est un mille plus près de la cité.

2 Crée un lieu plus

answer for the purpose.

To avoid monotony in the view of the water from the promenade, a group of tall shrubbery would be desirable on each of the re-entering angles and shade trees should be planted on the borders between the different ways of the Promenade, a broad vista being left open on the line of the shorter axis, disclosing the prospect over the valley beyond Cote des Neiges, across the water from the promenade on the East side and the hill in its rear.

I should say that the area for the Reservoir as proposed on my diagram is as large as can in my judgment be adopted without a considerable and undesirable change of its form and though slightly smaller than has been intended I hope it may be thought sufficient.

*24 5th July 1876,
Louis Lesage.

Either by opening a broad road from the Reservoir to the Cote des Neiges road East of the Cemetery or by some other expedient yet to be devised, it will be necessary that the City guard strenuously against the erection of any building by which the view might be cut [off?] or disturbed, which in that direction is so very lovely and distinct in character from all others to be enjoyed from the mountain.

I have proposed an outline to the reservoir adapted to admit of the construction about it of a grand promenade half a mile in length which will include driving, riding and walking ways, nearly level in grade. Accommodations of this class can thus be provided much better and at less expense than on the upper part of the mountain and, situated here, they will have several advantages, each of no little value.

First, as a place of social gathering, the locality will be a mile nearer the City than that previously proposed to be similarly used.

Second, it will be a safer place for the

sécuritaire pour un plus grand nombre de calèches.

congregation of large numbers of carriages and horsemen.

3 Offrira un lieu mieux protégé des vents du nord et permet donc une utilisation plus tôt le printemps et tard l'automne.

Third, it will be available for its intended use with comfort earlier in the spring and later in the autumn, being sheltered from northerly winds.

4 Chevaux ayant un mille de moins à gravir y arriveront plus frais. Les visiteurs y trouveront une pause agréable de tourner autour d'un lieu de niveau avant de reprendre l'ascension vers la couronne de la montagne.

[Fourth], horses having had a mile less of up-[hill work] to do will reach it in fresher condition, [and] visitors will find it a pleasant relief to turn out upon its level course on their way to the "Crown of the Mountain".

5 Le matériel excavé, non utilisé par la construction de la promenade pourra servir à améliorer, corriger les défauts des abords du chemin qui mène de la rue Bleury jusqu'au sommet de la montagne.

Fifth, the material excavated from the reservoir, and not required in the construction of the promenade around it, will materially help to mend the defects of the road from Bleury Street up the mountain.

6 Ayant fourni une promenade encore plus satisfaisante pour les hommes à chevaux, il ne sera plus opportun d'en construire au sommet, ce qui laissera cet endroit plus sécuritaire pour les excursions de femmes et d'enfants.

Sixth, having provided a much more satisfactory course for horsemen than was previously practicable, there will be no need of constructing one in the upper part of the mountain, which will leave the latter a much safer place for the rambles of women and children.

7 L'ajout, à cet endroit, d'une large promenade à niveau, permettra une réduction de la largeur du chemin, l'usage de pentes plus accentuées et de changements de direction plus fréquents dans la partie supérieure de la montagne, les attrait naturels seront ainsi moins sujets à des atteintes et la route s'harmonisera plus avec le paysage.

Seventh, the addition at this point of a broad, level promenade drive, will justify a reduction of width, and the use of steeper grades and more frequent and rapid changes of course in the drive of the upper part of the mountain, the natural features of which will thus be less subject to injury, while the road will be more harmonious [and in] character with the scenery.

*24 26th July 1876,
H. A. Nelson.

Retarder l'implantation de la portion de route non aménagée jusqu'à ce que la construction du réservoir soit certaine et ses plans finalisés. Tout changement au plan du réservoir impliquera une modification à la route et, advenant la non construction du réservoir, la localisation de la route risquerait fort d'être inadéquate.

Tant que le réservoir ne sera pas complété, conserver la route actuelle (*accès à la maison Smith). Celle-ci ne nécessite que quelques améliorations légères et est facile à conserver en bon état. Construire une nouvelle route serait plus coûteux et moins satisfaisant.

Prendre en compte la possibilité que le réservoir requis soit plus vaste et localisé différemment dans un an ou deux, suite au retour de la prospérité, suite à l'augmentation de la population, à la création de nouveaux bâtiments, à de nouveaux comités et possiblement à un nouvel ingénieur des eaux. En ce cas, la route que vous désirez construire paraîtra rapidement incongrue.

"I strongly recommend a delay in the location of the line of road which will be needed to connect that already stoned and that, the working plans of which have been since determined, until such time as the construction of the reservoir shall have been ordered beyond recall and on definite working plans. Any change that may be found necessary in the plan of the reservoir would involve a change in the location of the road, and if by any possibility the reservoir should not be built or its location should be materially changed, the proposed location of the road would be very bad indeed. The two matters cannot be planned and should not be built apart. Were it not for the reservoir I should recommend a very different location of the road.

The present line of the temporary road is a good one for the purpose, the road is not difficult to keep in good order, and until the reservoir is built it will be much more agreeable for use than a stone road would be laid upon the proposed reservoir route.

I would advise your Board to make some slight and very positive improvements so that carriages may move easily meet & pass upon it, and for the present to be content with it. I have not a doubt that any other course will require a large expenditure for a result less satisfactory."

* 26 25th September 1876,
to H. A. Nelson

"... It is now obvious from what you say that after a year or two, with returning prosperity, an increase of population, rapid progress in building, new members of the Common Council, new Committees and possibly a new water works engineer, the whole project of the reservoir is liable to be reconsidered; that a larger one may be required or a different situation preferred. In that case the entire plan of roads which I have given you beyond the road already made will have been badly designed and, if carried out, will be regarded as a costly and vexatious mistake. As to the stretch of road which you are more particularly anxious to undertake it would in that case be a barbarism, for which, speaking as a friend, I should be very sorry to have you in the long future of the mountain held responsible."

*27 28th September 1876,

to H. A. Nelson

Un élément évident du plan est le réservoir entouré d'un large chemin ombragé, une piste pour chevaux et une promenade pour piétons. Mon entente initiale avec les commissaires était que le parc serait agrandi en direction du cimetière de la Côte-des-Neiges, prenant dans 30 acres de plus d'un district alluvial de type vallée qui s'appelle les clairières. Je trouvais cela le plus souhaitable parce que cela offrirait la possibilité de montrer un paysage élégant, qui aurait été le plus charmant par son contraste avec le caractère général des paysages de la montagne, le rendant ainsi plus frappant et intéressant.

Voulant le conserver aussi idyllique que possible, et sachant que dans tous les parcs les plus fréquentés, il y a une demande pour un lieu général de rendez-vous ou une promenade publique et que si rien n'est prévu à cette fin, un bout de route souvent peu adapté à l'objectif est transformé pour ce but. J'ai fait une route, voie d'équitation et promenade piétonnière. J'ai fait un circuit court de caractère plus retiré.

Quand l'an passé, les commissaires sont arrivés à la conclusion qu'il n'était pas approprié d'acquiescer tout territoire supplémentaire, même si cela correspondait à une réduction du territoire originalement prévu, j'ai changé dans mon design les éléments du système de circulation et ai adopté un vocabulaire plus pittoresque pour la partie supérieure avec des chemins plus étroits sinueux et

"A conspicuous feature of the map represents the proposed reservoir, with a broad, shaded drive; course for saddle horses, and a walk hid out about it. My first understanding with the commissioners was, that the park was to be extended in the direction of the Côte-des-Neiges Cemetery, taking in thirty acres more of the dale-like alluvial district which I call the Glades. I thought this most desirable, because it afforded the opportunity of exhibiting here an exquisite landscape, which would have been the more charming from its contrast with the general character of the scenery of the mountain, and would have made that more striking and interesting.

"Wishing to keep this as idyllic as possible, and knowing that in all much frequented public parks there comes a demand for a general rendezvous or public promenade, and that, if it is not provided for, some stretch of road, often very poorly adapted to the purpose, is made to serve for it, I had laid out a drive, ride, and walk, in another part of the park, with this object in view, and had made a distinct short circuit here of a more retired character.

When the commissioners, last year, were driven to the conclusion that it was inexpedient to propose the acquisition of any more territory, even if a corresponding reduction of that originally in view was made, and when the Common Council determined that a reservoir was required at this point, I reversed, in my design, these features of the system of communication, and adopted a more picturesque method for the higher ground, with narrower, more winding, and somewhat steeper roads, and, after much debate, arranged with Mr. LeSage, the engineer of the water-works, this outline for the reservoir, which allows a grand promenade, half a

plus escarpés. J'ai déterminé avec M. Lesage, l'ingénieur des eaux, la forme du réservoir. Le contour de celui-ci crée une grande promenade d'un demi mille de longueur au-dessus d'un circuit avec des courbes faciles, placé plus près de la ville.

Il est situé à la limite du parc, et comme personne n'est contraint pour y arriver de traverser à travers les districts inférieurs plus boisés et pittoresques, il s'agit pratiquement d'un objet en soi et non d'une partie propre du parc.

Le circuit de promenade est en moyenne un peu plus long qu'un demi-mille. Le chemin pour les chevaux sellés a vingt pieds de largeur, celui des calèches quarante et celui des piétons quinze. Ces dimensions peuvent être augmentées si vous le désirez. Question de coûts. Toutes les séparations de la promenade sont bien ombragées par des arbres placés symétriquement

Ici le sol est lisse, peu boisé alluvial, riche et plus humide que le reste de la montagne. Il s'agit d'une prairie de montagne d'exposition sévère. La maison occupée par le surintendant détruit ses qualités naturelles et interrompt des vistas intéressantes.

Ne pas conserver les arbres existants.

Ne planter sous aucune considération dans les quelques espaces ouverts. Il est essentiel au design que la pelouse soit continue.

mile in length, upon a circuit of easy curves, to be placed much nearer the city.

It is on the border of the park, and as no one is compelled to enter it in passing to the more sylvan and picturesque districts beyond, it is practically an affair by itself, not a part of the park proper.

The circuit of the promenade is, on an average, a little more than half a mile in length. The pad for saddle horses is represented as twenty feet wide, the carriage-way forty, and the walk fifteen, which dimensions can be enlarged if you prefer. It is a question of expense. All the divisions of the promenade are well shaded by trees symmetrically arranged." p.79

"Here the ground is smooth, little wooded, and the soil generally alluvial and peaty; moister than any other on the mountain. It is, in fact, a mountain meadow of severe exposure. The old house, now occupied by the superintendent, stands in the midst of it (destroying its most marked natural quality, and interrupting lovely distant views). This district I call The Glades." p.47

"From my saying this, please not to infer that any of the trees now standing should be left, or that others would, on any consideration; be planted upon any of the few comparatively broad openings. It is essential to the design that the surface should be of clear unbroken turf." p.73

Ne pas planter sauf pour redonner l'aspect naturel des limites des boisés périphériques qui ont été mal utilisés.

Pourrait facilement devenir la plus belle pelouse du continent. Pourrait, une fois formée, être entretenue par des moutons plutôt que comme un gazon.

Après cela, le chemin mène à une large vallée haut perchée dont les éléments doux sont baignés d'un soleil non interrompu par du feuillage.

Sommet (Upperfell)

Après cela, des pentes plus accidentées et plus sauvages seront bordées et le premier plan montrera encore plus en évidence l'élévation et la sévérité des hivers dans les aspects des rochers et le caractère pittoresque de la végétation.

Ouvrir le Sommet à tous, en tout temps pour le pique-nique, pour les jeux d'enfants qui ne requièrent pas de projectiles. Fournir des balançoires et des équipements pour les tout-petits.

Fournir des bancs confortables en abondance. Ne pas interdire le fait de s'asseoir décemment sur le sol ou les rochers.

Le district du Sommet mesure 50 acres de surface diversifiées. Le sol est mince et avec un traitement approprié sera occupé par des arbres bas et vigoureux, quelques forts taillis d'arbrisseaux épineux, les arbres en groupes et en petits bosquets avec de nombreuses ouvertures moussues avec de

"It is important that its original, simple, attractive character should, as soon as you can afford it, be regained and made the most of. It needs no planting, except to restore a natural face to the bordering woods, where they have been ill-used. It can easily be made the finest spread of turf on the continent. But it will be best kept, when once well formed, with sheep and not with lawn-like smoothness." p.47-48

"After this, the road would presently lead out upon a broad highland valley, all its soft features bathed in sunshine unbroken by foliage (the Glades)." p.62

"At the next move, steeper and wilder declivities would be skirted, and the foreground show yet more evidence of elevation and the severity of its winter in the aspects of the rocks and the picturesque character of the vegetation,..." p.62-63?

"Open all of the Upperfell, to be used by all comers at all times, for rambling at will; for picnicking; for all boys and children's' games and plays that do not involve the use of missiles. Supply swings and other amusements for the little ones. Furnish abundance of comfortable seats, and do not forbid decent seating on the ground and rocks." p. 55

"The district of which I here speak, the Upperfell, has an area of 50 acres, of very diversified surface; it includes the highest elevation of the mountain. It has little soil, and with a proper treatment will be occupied by low, sturdy wood and a few strong thorny thickets, the trees in groups and small groves with numerous mossy openings, with a great deal of natural rocky surface on which children can play and picnic parties sit, harming nothing. Many of these rocks command

grandes étendues de roc naturel sur lesquels les enfants peuvent jouer et les pique-niqueurs s'asseoir "harning nothing". Plusieurs de ces rochers offrent d'intéressantes vues lointaines. C'est le district actuellement le plus fréquenté par le public.

Les cinquante acres du district du Sommet étant ouvertes en tout temps, diriger dans la Fougeraie et les Pentes boisées pour cultiver un caractère montagnard plus riche pour y arriver, y restreindre la circulation sur les routes, sentiers et places sauf pendant les congés. Laisser cependant, de nombreuses places bien adaptées par leur caractère de leur "ledge", des bosquets ouverts et des vallons finement texturés pour pique-niquer. Fournir des sources ou de petites fontaines en pierre naturelle. Tenir chacune de ces places ouvertes pour être utilisées en tout temps pour pique-nique ou des festivités...

Le texte précédent a souvent été interprété par de nombreux universitaires, étudiants ou professeurs, comme preuve que Olmsted était antisocial.

Ces places pourraient "decked about" avec des arbustes et fleurs sauvages disposées naturellement, chacun ayant ses attrait forestiers et idylliques distincts.

Depuis ses bordures boisées s'élèvent des escarpements rocheux coiffés de sapins mais traversant cet espace entre eux et suivant près de la limite des

fine distant views, and it is the district now more resorted to by the public than any other.

This fifty acres of the Upperfell being at all times open to everybody, aim in other parts of the two fell-land districts to cultivate somewhat richer mountain character, and, in order to do so, restrict movement through them to the roads, walks, and prepared places, except upon holidays. Let there be, however, numerous places well adapted by the character of their ledges, open groves, and finely verdured dells for picnic parties. Provide springs or little natural rock fountains in connection with them. Hold each of these places open to be used at any time for picnic or festive parties, whether of friends or of schools, churches, societies, or any organizations either permanent or formed for the occasion.

Require only that each shall take the trouble to make application and have suitable grounds assigned for its use in advance, and that it shall give some reasonable assurance that the privilege will not be abused. All such places can then be decked about with shrubbery and suitable wild flowering plants, naturally disposed, and each have its own distinctive sylvan and idyllic attractions." p. 56-57

"From its wooded borders would rise rocky and fir-crested steeps, but crossing the space between them and following near the edge of the northern woods, we should be led, by quiet curves and with an easy ascent, to a position from which having now so long

boisés du nord nous serions conduits, par des courbes tranquilles et avec une ascension douce dans une position où nous aurions quitté la ville depuis longtemps, en regardant vers le bas au bord d'un escarpement boisé. Haut, par dessus les toits, au delà du port et de ses bateaux majestueux, une campagne large s'ouvrirait brisée de quelques collines nobles et derrière tout les ondulations lointaines des montagnes Adirondacks.

Faisant dos à cette scène qui, là où non familière peut être encore trop forte pour notre but, cela devrait être un repas dans une course au long de la limite des boisés dans lesquels, pendant que la surface est raboteuse et les arbres montrent que les conditions sont plus dures que plus bas, il y a des ouvertures abritées et ensoleillées où des groupes d'enfants joueront.

Grimpant encore, la route mènera avec des virages plus brusques le long d'une pente plus abrupte pendant roulant au dessus de la dépression d'un éperon étroit, rejoignant une vue vers le nord, cette vue charmante à laquelle je faisais référence auparavant.

Regardant au delà de cet avant-plan forestier, nous devrions bénéficier des vues les plus étendues dans toutes les directions. Ils n'offriraient rien d'autre qu'une surface ondulée de gazon ou un désert infini de sable que l'effet serait irrésistible. Tel qu'il est, quel élément d'intérêt pourrait être ajouté sans surcharge. Quel nouvel objet de sans perturber. Yet " j'ai supposé

left the city, it would be looked down upon from the brink of a woody cliff. High above its roofs, beyond the harbour with its stately ships, a great Champaign would open, broken by a few noble hills, and beyond all, the distant billows of the Adirondacks.

"Turning back from this scene which, were it not familiar, might as yet be too strong for our purpose, it would be a relief to course along the edge of woods in which, while the surface is rough and the trees tell the story of much harder exposure than those we have seen below, there are pleasant sheltered and sunny openings in which groups of children will be at play (The Upperfell.)

Still rising, the road will then lead with more rapid turns along the face of a steeper slope till, wheeling upon the depression of a narrow spur, a northern outlook is gained, with the lower valley of the great river spreading before the eye; that lovely view to which I have before referred." p.62

"Looking over this deep foreground of forest, we should now have before us more extended views in all directions than we had had before in any. Did they offer nothing for our enjoyment but a rolling surface of grass or an endless prospect of desert sand, with only sky and clouds to relieve its monotony of color, the effect would be irresistible. As it is, what element of interest could be added without crowding? What new object of beauty without disturbance? Yet, gradually led up to it from the streets, as I have supposed our friends to be, so that it comes in natural and consistent sequence of the

que menés graduellement depuis les rues, les visiteurs traversant la séquence naturelle et consistant d'expériences, l'impression devrait encore mener à un plus haut point l'influence reposante, apaisante et rafraîchissante de l'ensemble.

entire preceding experience, the impression could but carry to a still higher point the restful, soothing, and refreshing influence of the entire work. p.63

I deplore my inability to present the purpose which good management of this property would have exclusively before it, in a manner more worthy than that of this scrappy memorandum of what might be offered even to a poor invalid taken up the mountain in a carriage. P-63?

UN PARC PARMIS LES PLUS INTERESSANTS AU MONDE

Les principaux éléments de la valeur de tout terrain récréatif résident dans

- .le changement d'air apporté
- .la capacité des paysages à contrer les conditions qui favorisent les dépressions nerveuses et l'irritabilité
- .la facilité et le plaisir à utiliser les avantages du site.

"The chief elements of value of all recreation grounds for the use of the general public of large towns are, 1st the change of air afforded; 2d the power of their scenery to counteract conditions which tend to nervous depressions or irritability, 3d the ease and pleasure with which the advantages may be used.

Au niveau des deux premiers critères, le mont Royal dans l'état non amélioré, offre, à ma connaissance, une mesure supérieure à tout autre endroit situé près d'une population aussi importante. Ses avantages peuvent être améliorés et ses désavantages diminués. La question est de savoir s'il est possible de rendre accessible avec facilité, confort et économie tout en respectant les critères précédents.

Of the first two of these elements of value, Mount Royal, in its present unimproved condition offers a larger measure than any other place equally near so large a population of which I have knowledge, and by judicious means, as I shall later indicate, its advantages of scenery may be heightened, its disadvantages, lessened. The question then, is, whether its possible value in these respects can be made available with due ease, comfort and economy?"

*2 21st November 1874,
to the Commissioners of Mount Royal Park

Les vues offertes depuis la montagne surpassent en grandeur, beauté et variété les destinations touristiques communes du continent. Une fois rendues sécuritaires et agréables, elles devraient largement contribuer à augmenter le nombre de visiteurs dans la cité.

"The views commanded from the mountain - surpassing in expanse, beauty and variety those of any of the common tourist resorts on the continent - will, when they can be enjoyed with such ease and comfort as it will be practicable for you to secure, add largely to the numbers of the visitors staying in the city who will supply another element in the throng to be accommodated." 1874

Des aménagements simples, tels que décrits précédemment, combinés avec des accès rapides, économiques et agréables, doteraient Montréal d'un lieu public récréatif qui pourrait se comparer à ce qui se fait de mieux dans le monde.

"Surveying the whole property with due regard for the considerations I have indicated, assuming that the treatment of the mountain top shall be such as I have advised, and that some such arrangements as I have also suggested shall be provided by which access to and the ascent of the mountain shall be made as rapid, cheap, convenient and comfortable as is practicable, it will be seen that there is no reason to doubt that a public recreation ground can be formed within the limits of your property which shall compare favorably as a means of health for the people who are to be invited to use it with that of any other city of the world."

*2 21 November 1874
to Commission ???

Aménager adéquatement à peu de frais doterait Montréal d'un lieu public plus raffiné qu'aucune autre ville au monde, même que New York qui a investi plus de quinze millions de dollars avec assurance d'un profit en expansion.

"At a comparatively small expense directed with suitable purpose Montreal could have a finer public ground in the mountains than is possessed by any city in the world, incomparably finer than that for example for which New York has expended and with assured profit expended, more than fifteen million dollars."

*41 et 42 20th February 1886,
to D.P. Penhallow,
Director of the Botanic Garden.

Aucune cité au monde n'a de terrain public de valeur comparable qui pourrait être mis en valeur aussi facilement et à un coût aussi faible que la montagne.

"No city in all the world has a public ground that begins to compare in value with what could easily and at small cost be made of the Mountain."

*40 5th February 1886,
To William Robb.