

Simon says that "one-third of the deaths which occur in England are preventable, even with our present knowledge."

The economy as well as the humanity of a system of hygiene, which a sound plan of Sanitary Statistics would develop, must be apparent to the most superficial observer, if we look back to the fearful epidemic visitations of Asiatic cholera, Irish Emigrant or Ship Fever, small-pox, &c., which have repeatedly desolated our shores. These deadly invasions have been far more fatal, and infinitely more costly than any that war has ever produced. The most disastrous of the wars of the Greeks in times past, or of the Turks and Russians in the Crimea more recently, or, still later, of the fratricidal combatants in the neighboring republic, cannot compare with the slaughter and ruin occasioned by the Irish Emigrant or Ship Fever of 1847.

The number of emigrants who arrived in Canada in 1847 was 98,106; of the large number who died at sea we have no available statistics or record. From the best returns attainable, from official and other sources, it would appear that out of these 98,106, upwards of 11,000 persons died at Grosse Isle, Quebec, and Montreal; but the want of reliable information prevents us from saying how many died on their way to their proposed homes. However, it has been closely calculated, and may fairly be concluded, that of those who left the shores of Great Britain and Ireland in 1847, upwards of 60 per cent. perished from the fever.

In 1832, 1834 and 1854, Asiatic Cholera invaded this Dominion from the east by the River St. Lawrence, and in 1849, 1851, and 1852, from the south and west through the United States of America. Had we possessed effective and scientific sanitary laws at the aforementioned period of time, tens of thousands of valuable lives would have been saved to Canada, and millions of dollars to the public chest as well as to benevolent individuals.

The correctness of this statement is confirmed by the report of a commission appointed by the Government of Lower Canada, in response to a memorial from our Chairman, Dr. Marsden, asking for an enquiry into the manner in which Asiatic Cholera was introduced into Canada in 1854, and pledging himself to