

the mortality of the city, with a view to ascertaining the prevalent endemic diseases in particular localities, and the adoption of proper sanitary precautions. He states the chief mortality to occur under the age of 5 years, giving a frightful per centage of deaths under that age.

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE

— We translate the following from a recent publication by Lamartine, in which he thus speaks of the English people:—

"Nature, that predestined England to this importance, endowed her people with a character, not faultless indeed, but fore-ordained to greatness. These Britons bear within themselves the attributes of self-government and of sway, they are thoughtful, bold and persevering. Their genius naturally tends to hierarchical forms. They have an individual pride which is sometimes humiliating to those that do not belong to them, yet from this pride or egotistical sentiment of superiority, comes a national pride which constitutes a part of their power as a people. They may say: 'we rise in our own estimation when we compare ourselves to others.'

"They have a love of liberty, resulting from this self-esteem, but from the same cause springs also an aristocratic feeling. They wish to make their civilization a lasting monument, and knowing that nothing is permanent in a changing democracy, where the caprices and the passions of the people govern, cling to the hierarchy, which form alone ensures in all permanency and order. They glory alike in that which is above as below them. They respect their aristocracy and their subordinate classes.

"A monarchy solely to personify their national majesty, an aristocracy to perpetuate their civilization, a free people to justify their civic pride. This is their national trinity. Liberty for its base, aristocracy for its centre, monarchy for its head, this secures order throughout, but order which is the offspring of a rational choice, not of coercion. What a republic? What a nobility and what royalty have we here combined in the same people? He who withholds his admiration is unworthy to speak of civil communities.

"From these three political virtues of the Anglo-Saxon race result the phenomena which we now see. an incommensurable national wealth, a legitimate influence over the nations of the continent, and a universal monarchy extending over every sea and to every country washed by the waters of the ocean."

— Lower Canada sustains in the death of the Hon. D. B. Viger, which took place on the 13th instant, the loss of one of her great men. We abridge from a French Canadian contemporary the following biographical sketch. M. Viger was one of the survivors of that glorious phalanx of patriots whose words and actions filled our political history for more than half a century. He was born in Montreal, on the 19th of August, 1774, and was the eldest of three children, one brother, who died young, and a sister for whom he ever felt the greatest affection, but who also died, in 1820. Though his parents were not wealthy he was sent to school at an early age, and had not completed his fifth year when he entered the College of St. Raphael, whose hall was the old chateau of the family of de Vaudreuil, and which was situated where now stands Jacques Cartier Square. His cousin, the late Bishop Lartigue was then in the same college, and they met as class-mates in the first course of philosophy taught by the Rev. J. R. Leclair, in 1790. The founder and first director of this college was M. l'abbé Curateau de la Blaiserie, of whom the deceased was always fond of speaking in terms of praise throughout his long career.

His mother, a very pious woman, early gave him the benefit of her religious lessons. He was the nephew of the Rev. Mr. Cherrier, curé of St. Denis, and *Grand Vicaire*, a clergyman of much sense who took a lively interest in the welfare of his youthful relative. His father, a man of frank disposition and enterprising spirit, was related to the celebrated Papineau family. After going through his collegiate course of studies he did not hesitate in the choice of a profession but at once entered the law office of M. L. C. Foucher, then representative for the city of Montreal, and Solicitor General. His first essay appeared in 1792, in *La Gazette de Montréal*, a journal which in passing into the hands of new owners, changed from French to English. In that essay he defended his compatriots against their adversaries, and was then only 18 years of age. After completing his legal studies under M. J. A. Panet, at Quebec, he was, on the 9th of March 1799, admitted to the Bar at Montreal. His talents and the zeal with which he undertook to defend French Canadian interests soon made him popular among his countrymen, and he was elected a member of Parliament by the West Ward of the city of Montreal, in 1808. The same year his cousin M. L. J. Papineau, was also elected as representative for the county of Kent.

He published a pamphlet in 1809, in which he reviewed the policy that aimed at the maintenance of the institutions, customs, education &c. of the old inhabitants of the country, and pointed out the effects that would follow if they were suffered to fall into decay. This was the first of a long list of pamphlets, memoirs, and articles due to his pen, which entitled him to the appellation of father of the Canadian press, and which for erudition, logic, deep research, and moderation in the language place him in the foremost rank of Canadian publicists.

His name is found associated with every political event, which marked the history of Lower Canada at that time and for a long series

of years. Under the Administration of Sir James Craig he narrowly escaped being imprisoned. In 1810, he was again returned to Parliament, for the county of Leinster, and from 1816 to 1830, he was the representative of Kent.

During the war of 1812 an attempt was made to implicate him in the rising at Lachine, and he was accused of disloyalty, but he had little difficulty in clearing himself from the charge; for although he ever professed to be the friend of liberty, he never forgot his first duty as a subject of the British Empire. But as under that rule the French Canadians had to work out a constitutional system which was entirely new to them, political education had to be acquired ere they could hope to share in any way the benefits it conferred. To this great work M. Viger devoted all his energies, and to his early and continued efforts in this direction his compatriots are greatly indebted for the success that followed.

The Act of 1791 gave free institutions to Lower Canada, but without the necessary enlightenment of the people it would have remained a useless boon. This M. Viger, who was by the nature of his studies prepared for the task, perfectly understood. He was a zealous admirer of the British constitution, and could appreciate the important advantages enjoyed under it. But to give it full effect it was also necessary to reform many abuses. To this arduous undertaking he now turned his attention, and from his place in the House of Assembly attacked the system of choosing juries exclusively from the cities; he introduced a bill to remedy the evil, insisted upon the appointment of a committee of inquiry, and drew up a report dated March 30th 1830, in which his enlightened views are ably set forth.

Among the many pamphlets written by this distinguished man *L'Analyse d'un Entretien*, &c., published in 1826, and the *Considérations relatives à la dernière révolution de la Belgique* still find many readers.

In 1828, Mr. Viger, with Messrs. Neilson and Cuvillier, was deputed to England with an Address stating the causes of complaint against the Administration of Lord Dalhousie. This petition, to which were affixed 80,000 signatures, was followed by the recall of the Governor, and secured to Canada important results.

In 1830, he was appointed a member of the Upper House by Sir James Knipst, and the following year the House of Assembly charged him to proceed to England to support the accusations lodged against Attorney General Stuart, who immediately followed and made a defense that filled a folio, every line of which had to be refuted. After a contest of two years' duration the subject of this sketch came off the victor, Mr. Stuart having been dismissed by Lord Goderich.

Mr. Viger's principles did not allow him to take any part in the outburst of 1837-38; in fact he did not approve of the measures which ultimately led to the Union of the Provinces. He was however arrested, and his papers were examined, but nothing could be found against him.

In 1841, he was chosen to represent the county of Richelieu in the first Parliament of United Canada; and in 1844, was invited by Lord Metcalfe to form the ministry which succeeded to the Lafontaine Administration. He chose for his colleagues among others Mr. Draper, now Chief Justice of Upper Canada, Mr. Daly, subsequently appointed Governor of Prince Edward's Island, and Hon. D. B. Papineau, his cousin. During his short Administration several important measures were carried, including the reestablishment of the French language in the Legislature on an equal footing with the English. His last publication entitled *La Crise Ministérielle*, appeared about this time. In the course of his long political career he in part founded, or supported with his influence several newspapers.

He was married to Mlle. Marie Amable Fortier, and had but one child, a daughter who died at the age of eight years. Madame Viger, whose decease took place in 1851, was the principal founder of the charitable institution known as the *Bon Pasteur*, where her remains have been inhumed.

This eminent citizen was attended to his grave by an immense throng of sorrowing friends, all the French newspapers appeared in mourning, and the three divisions of the Superior Court adjourned as a mark of respect to his memory.

— At a meeting held at St. Hyacinthe, presided over by Mayor Laframboise and attended by many of the most influential citizens of that town, among whom we notice the name of the Hon. L. V. Sicotte, measures were adopted for the purpose of forming a company for the manufacture of cloth. The capital to be invested in the enterprise, it is said, will be \$50,000.

ERRATUM.—In our January number, in the Table of the Apportionment of the Superior Education Grant, the following institutions were erroneously charged with the sums opposite their names as having been allowed to them for the year 1859:—

St. Charles, Bellechasse; St. George, Cacouna, St. Jean, Port Joli, Pointe aux Trembles, Portneuf, Ste. Cécile, Beauharnais, Eboulements, Protestant Model School, Quebec Suburb, Montreal, St. Pierre les Becquets, St. Laurent, Montmorency, Rawdon, St. Christophe, St. Germain, Notre-Dame de la Victoire, Lévis, Rigaud, Sœurs de Charité, St. Vincent de Paul, Ecole de la Visitation, St. Mary's Suburb.

The said institutions were placed for the first time on the list for 1860.