

efficient cause of insanity, surely the number of the insane would be enormous. In like manner, if masturbation be regarded *per se*, as an efficient cause, I dread to think how multitudinous will be the number of lunatics in America; and considering how very hopeless are the large majority of those cases in asylums, in which it is present, I tremble in contemplating the future augmentation of incurables. I would therefore gladly be persuaded, that the vice, as we encounter it in large insane institutions, has been to some extent resultive, rather than causal; and that persistence in it is a consequence of the dethronement of reason, and consequent loss of moral self-control, rather than the converse.

The consideration of insanity in this country, in relation to the important facts,—civil state, age, nationality and religion, may not be uninteresting to a majority of medical readers. In these aspects of the disease, as in others, an extended survey of facts may serve to correct erroneous impressions, or to lead us to greater cautiousness of generalization; and as the figures herein presented are derived from a rather extended period of registration, they may be accepted with some degree of reliability.

The civil state of 3114 patients admitted in twenty-four years has been as follows:—

Married (and widowed) men, .....	731
Do. do women, .....	950
Single men, .....	915
Do. women, .....	518
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	3114

It must be obvious to every intelligent reader, that the above figures in themselves, are not the exponents of the relative liability to insanity of the married and single, in either men or women. We must take them in comparison with the actual numbers of the several heads, in our population, within the periods of age subject, or *most* subject to insanity.

The period of age furnishing the largest proportion of insanity, in Upper Canada, is that from 30 to 40 years; the period from 20 to 30, though in absolute numbers, not falling much short of that from 30 to 40; yet, as it is represented by larger figures in the causes, its proportion is much less. The actual proportional excess of the latter over the former is between 80 and 90 per cent.

The census of 1861 shews that within the ages 30 to 40, the several numbers of married and single men and women were as follows:—

Married men.....	113.653.	Do. women.....	133.544.
Single men.....	144.011.	Do. women.....	58.354.