

part of the Census Report of the Canadas relating to "deaths and causes of death," we find it stated that out of 5836 cases of death, in which the causes were specified, occurring in Upper Canada, 38 were from small-pox, or an average of 6.5 in every 1000. In Lower Canada, however, out of 6500, there were 147, or 22.6 to every 1000. These imperfect statistics are sufficient to show that in this country small-pox is far more prevalent and fatal than most persons imagine, and that it is incumbent on our legislature to adopt proper measures to protect the community from its ravages. As we have said before—In estimating the merits of this question, more should be taken into consideration than the immediate mortality of, and alteration of features left by the disease. From its usually attacking persons while they are in a state of infancy or childhood, before the processes of growth and development have proceeded to any extent, those who recover are left in a condition not at all favorable to the production of robust healthy manhood. The whole mass of blood has been poisoned, and the system has received a shock from which it seldom completely recovers. Infirmary of constitution, and consequent liability to various diseases, is entailed upon the individual for life. Nor is it physical perfection alone that is interfered with. The retarding and deteriorating influences which date their origin from an attack of small pox, are quite as inimical to mental as to bodily development.

We have been led to pen these remarks from having read in the "Toronto Colonist" of the 4th Nov., the following notice of a petition presented by Dr. Rees to the Legislature. The arrangements which he desiderates are excellent, but it is our firm opinion that until vaccination be made compulsory, small pox will constantly be found in our midst, and that it will, as usual, add materially to the mortality bills of the Province:—

"We have been favoured by Dr. Rees with an examination of a volume received of no ordinary value, entitled the "History and Practice of Vaccination," published by the General Board of Health, London, 1857, and presented to both Houses of the Imperial Parliament by command of Her Majesty. Its importance at the present moment, when that scourge, Small Pox, has appeared in several parts of the Province, will be readily appreciated. Dr. Rees presented a petition to the last session of the Legislature, praying that measures may be adopted and means provided to secure free vaccination to the inhabitants of this Province, and a Bill was accordingly framed and passed the Upper, but was lost in the Lower House, purely owing to the lateness of the season. The following is the prayer of the petition:—