

In addition to these, the Danubian Principalities, with a population of 1,750,000, maintain an army of 6,800 men, and pay an annual tribute of 3,000,000 piastres to Turkey. Servia, with a population of 1,000,000, maintain an army of 3,000, and pays an annual tribute of 2,000,000 piastres to Turkey. The debts of the various nations are expressed in Prussian dollars, whose current value is 3s. English. According to the above table, the national debt of Europe, divided among the inhabitants, makes each person indebted £42.5 or £6 7s. 6d., or each head of a family about £30 in debt; whilst the standing armies of Europe makes one out of every twenty of the adult and able male population a soldier. There are, besides, the seamen requisite to man 2,763 vessels of war.

There is another very important view to be taken of this subject, and that is the amount which the labor and industry of the people and the resources of the countries of Europe are taxed, in consequence of the system which has been carried on, either through the ambition or the tyranny of their rulers, or the turbulence and irregularities of the people. The following brief table, comprehending some of the principal countries of Europe, will, in some degree present this view :—

Countries.	Revenue by taxation.	Proportion raised per head.	Proportion paid by each family.
Great Britain.....	£50,000,000	£1 16s. 4d.	£8 1s. 8d.
France.....	67,000,000	1 17 6	9 8 6
Austria.....	\$100,000,000	0 8 4	2 1 8
Prussia.....	60,000,000	0 10 7	2 12 11
Russia.....	110,000,000	0 4 8	1 3 4
Holland.....	40,000,000	1 14 3	7 11 3
Belgium.....	31,000,000	0 18 7	4 12 11
Spain.....	80,000,000	0 18 5	4 12 1
Portugal.....	18,000,000	0 15 5	3 17 1
Denmark.....	12,500,000	0 13 7	3 7 11
Sweden.....	10,500,000	0 6 8	1 13 4
Papal States.....	15,000,000	0 14 1	3 10 5
Naples.....	31,000,000	0 10 11	2 12 7
Tuscany.....	18,000,000	1 11 9	7 18 9
Sardinia.....	22,000,000	0 15 6	3 17 6
Turkey.....	17,000,000	0 4 1	1 0 5
Switzerland.....	400,000	0 0 5½	0 2 4½
San Marino.....	8,320	0 3 4	0 16 8

EXTRAORDINARY CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PRESENT WINTER.

The peculiar severity of the present winter, has been so remarkable on the North American continent, and also in some other countries, that we have taken pains to collect some interesting facts on the subject, illustrative of the actual degree of cold experienced in various places. Although the late cold cycle commenced on the 10th and 11th of January, and was succeeded by a comparatively warm one, yet the month of December, just past, was the coldest December but two in the last thirty-two years. The December of 1835 was colder, and that of 1837, colder still. The warmest December was in 1829, the next warmest in 1838, (as many in Canada will long remember), and the third in 1848.

During the month of December and January last, several violent storms and remarkable variations in the temperature have taken place in various places, remote from each other—all indicative of a simultaneous and sympathetic appearance of striking natural phenomena all over the surface of the globe. Halos, Mock Suns, Aurora Borealis, High and Low Tides, Hurricanes, and Tornados have almost universally preceded the late intense cold. The following is an authentic account of the most interesting of these occurrences :—

On the 8th of December last, a most awful visitation occurred at the island of Sicily, which was swept by two enormous water-spouts, accompanied by a terrific hurricane. Those who witnessed the phenomenon described the water-spouts as two immense spherical bodies of water reaching from the clouds, their cones nearly touching the earth, and as far as could be judged, at a quarter of a mile apart, travelling with immense velocity. They passed over the island near Marsala. In their progress, houses were unroofed, men and women, horses, cattle and sheep, were raised up, drawn into their vortex, and borne on to destruction. During their

passage, rain descended in cataracts, accompanied with hailstones of enormous size and masses of ice. Going over Castellamare near Stabia, it destroyed half the town, and washed two hundred of the inhabitants into the sea, who all perished. Upwards of five hundred persons have been destroyed by this terrible visitation, and an immense amount of property,—the country being laid waste for miles. The shipping in the harbor suffered severely, many vessels being destroyed and their crews drowned. After the occurrence, numbers of dead human bodies were picked up, all frightfully mutilated and swollen.

At Minden in Louisiana a tornado passed over part of Claiborne parish about the latter end of January. It uprooted trees, whirled away fences, and demolished several houses.

On the 8th and 9th of January the British Isles were visited by one of the most severe gales experienced there for many years. Liverpool, London, Glasgow, Belfast and Cork suffered most severely; a great many vessels and lives were lost. The storm was accompanied with violent rain, snow, hail and sleet. The powerful steamer *Nimrod* from Liverpool to Cork was *seventeen* hours in sight of the Tusker light, the storm preventing her from making any headway. The wind was chiefly from the N. and S. E. In London the gale from the S. W. was so violent for two or three hours that the tide was not high enough to float several of the Thames steamers. The rain meanwhile descended in torrents. Under Waterloo bridge the ebb was so great that persons could easily walk across on the bed of the river.

The water level in Lake Superior has been observed to be higher this winter than has been for a long period. At the mouth of Ontonagon river it is sweeping over the marks of its ancient boundaries, and uprooting trees of 20 or 30 years growth. It will be interesting to note the passage of this flood from one lake to the other, until it passes into the St. Lawrence.

At Quebec, the intense cold was preceded by a singular phenomena, which presented itself in the sky about mid-day, on the 9th of January. The sun was surrounded with a large halo, on the east and west borders of which, and directly opposite each other, were to be seen two smaller suns with each a long train of light extending outward through the sky. At the same time a brightly colored rainbow intersected that portion of the circle around the sun which extended through the zenith.

A most beautiful display of Aurora Borealis was visible in Bally Castle, North of Ireland, on the 20th of Dec. From a dusky cloud in the North East, there arose an immense column of electric fluid, which poured fourth its flashes across the zenith and disappeared in the opposite horizon. So quick were the flashes, the eye, at times, was unable to follow their transit. The phenomena might be compared to the tail of an immense comet. At Oquawka (Illinois) on the 18th of January a brilliant phenomena was visible. In addition to the two mock suns, a magnificent luminous arch extended above the true orb, connecting the two others, whilst the faintest possible duplicate image of the whole could be traced outside of it. On the 19th inst., a magnificent Aurora borealis was visible at Toronto.

The greatest severity of cold was not experienced until about the 16th, the 19th, and particularly the 20th January, as the following carefully prepared table will shew :—

At New Orleans, on the 13th, the frost burst a half inch water pipe. This occurrence is considered an extraordinary fact at New Orleans.
 At Boston, U. S., on the 16th, the thermometer was 4° below zero.*
 At Sherbrooke, L. C., on the 16th, the thermometer was 32° below zero.
 At Fort Snelling, Minnesota, on the night of the 17th, the mercury froze solid at 40 degrees below zero.
 At Mobile, U. S., on the 18th, the thermometer fell in about 20 hours from 72° to 9°.
 At Montreal, L. C., on the 18th, the thermometer was 11° below zero.
 At Cayuga, U. C., on the 19th, the thermometer was 25° below zero.
 At Montreal, L. C., on the 19th, the thermometer was 10° below zero.
 At Guelph, U. C., on the 20th, the thermometer was 15° below zero.
 At Queenston, U. C., on the 20th, the thermometer was 16° below zero.
 At Montreal, L. C., on the 20th, the thermometer was from 14° to 25° below zero.
 At Quebec, L. C., on the 20th, the thermometer was 21° below zero.
 At Cincinnati, U. S., on the 20th, the thermometer was 10° below zero.

* The temperature indicated here appears moderate; but when it is recollected that at 3 o'clock on the afternoon of the 15th of January, the thermometer was 40° above zero, and at sunrise, next morning, it had fallen to 1° below; the cold must appear to have been much more intense than that actually indicated by the thermometer.