

But while every conceivable form of crime, — many of them now unknown, — received attention ; while all the relations of men to one another and to animals, are copiously treated ; while for every conceivable forbidden act are provided compensation, exemption, fines, forfeiture, honour price, restitution ; for man in every rank ; for woman in every state ; from the King on his throne to the cat mousing in the garret, no mention is made, no punishment is provided for that crime spoken of in Genesis xxxviii, 9th and 10th. It seems to have been unknown, and *I may add, is still unknown among that people*. But lest the designs of Providence should be thwarted through prudential reasons, such as now obtain in certain states of society, neglecting marital duty is dealt with as a crime, and classed for the purpose of punishment with mutilating the person, stripping the slave, &c.

The woman with child was treated then as now with the greatest tenderness. No neighbouring woman, with bodkin ; no village blacksmith was there to rid her of her burden ; no demon defiling the name of Doctor to step in, and, with shielded stiletto to unhinge the work of nature. The word of a woman in childbirth was taken before all other evidence ; and if unintentional violence had been used ; or disgraceful violence as it was termed ("in turthach is tar ") which brought on premature labour, and not in natural course, injuring her person, or killing her child, her oath or statement when in labour, or the oath of a witness, before whom the woman in labour made the statement, was taken, and punishment followed, for the *Senchus Mor*, as dispensed by the Brehons, would not allow that a woman in labour could speak anything but the truth.

The social consequences of this evil are beyond measurement or conjecture. Adopting the views of Malthus when the converse obtains, when the law or principle by which population increases is violated, the evil must not be viewed as progressing arithmetically, but geometrically. In Canada the French population has doubled itself since its foundation every twenty years. What factors were the three thousand who landed here 210 years ago, in the 1,350,000 Canadians of French origin who now people both sides of the St. Lawrence and its many tributaries, the Ottawa, St. Maurice, and Richelieu, and extend into the North West, and Eastern Townships, besides, sending half a million to the adjoining