

verment; and, altogether, everything is done for the poor suffering strangers that can be reasonably expected, and much more than we presume, is done for the poor either in England or Ireland. Protestant ministers have, latterly, been assiduous in their attention, as well as pious and benevolent laymen; and the officers of the emigrant department are toiling away without intermission in their arduous and important duties. Yet so great is the sphere of usefulness, that any respectable individual, whether male or female, who will go and pass some time at the sheds, making themselves acquainted with the state of things there, and useful, as they see opportunity, will be most benevolently employed. There is room, we should judge, for twenty such volunteer nurses or assistants.

The most piteous sight of all, perhaps, is a separate shed, appropriated to the orphans, and in which sixty or eighty poor little creatures, some of them not many weeks old, are lying four and six in a berth, many of them wailing in every variety of tone. The priests, nuns, and others, are very attentive to these forlorn babes; but there appear to be no wet nurses yet, and it is almost impossible that many of them can survive.

We have heard had accounts from Lachine, where it is said boats are sometimes detained several days before the steamers will tow them, whilst the passengers are being thinned by death.

There is also said to be much sickness among the emigrants that have reached Kingston, and in fact wherever they go the route is almost strewed with corpses.

At the Quarantine station the sickness and mortality are still appalling, notwithstanding the excellent arrangements lately made. We trust a parliamentary investigation will take place into the causes that led to the detention of so many healthy passengers for such a length of time at that island. Much of the sickness here is undoubtedly the result of confining the healthy passengers so long with the sick on board their vessels at the Quarantine station.

All that we have seen yet, however, is probably only the beginning of sorrows. The vessels hitherto have made comparatively quick passages, and they have been generally well adapted for carrying passengers. The weather also has been quite cool, and altogether the diseases have been comparatively mild; but the long midsummer passages may now be expected, and the sultry heat of a Canadian summer, so that it is likely fevers of the most malignant and contagious kind will be engendered and widely disseminated, not only among the emigrants, but through our cities and towns. Surely this is a time for vigilance and activity on the part of the authorities, and benevolence and fortitude on the part of the people.

DEATH OF THE REV. DR. CHALMERS.

Edinburgh, Monday, May 31.

The Rev. Dr. Chalmers is dead. This morning, at eight o'clock, he was found sitting on the front of his bed, cold as clay, and his eyes fixed and glazed. He had one foot resting on the ankle of the other, and his right arm extended in the direction of a wash-hand basin, which stood on a table near. From this it is inferred that, having found himself unwell, he had risen in sickness, and was struck with apoplexy, of which evidently he died. The only authentic particulars which can be gathered in reference to this melancholy event, are these: On Friday night he returned from London, where he had been to give evidence before the committee on sites. On Saturday he felt rather poorly, and complained of general languor. Being engaged to deliver an address in the assembly of the Free Church on Monday, on presenting the report of the committee of the college fund, of which he was convener, he did a good deal towards the preparation of that document, and retired to rest at a late hour on Saturday night. He did not feel able to be out of bed on Sunday morning, but towards the afternoon he rallied, and in the evening appeared to enjoy his wonted health and spirits. On retiring to rest, Mrs. Chalmers, who is in a very delicate state of health, proposed, in order that the doctor might have quiet rest, that he should go to his bedroom by himself, to which he consented, requesting to be called at six o'clock in the morning. The family, however, being desirous to let him have a refreshing sleep, did not call him till eight, when one of his daughters, finding no response to her calls, became alarmed, and, on entering, found all that was mortal of the great and good man in the situation above described. A physician was immediately sent for, who pronounced death to have ensued from apoplexy, and that he had been dead some hours.

The General Assembly of the Free Church, which met at a quarter after eleven, engaged in most solemn and suitable devotional exercises; after which, the moderator announced the death of the rev. doctor in touching terms, and proposed that the assembly should suspend its

business till Thursday. There was not a dry eye in the assembly; a more sorrowful and truly powerful scene we never witnessed. The late Dr. Chalmers was in his sixty-seventh year. "A great man has fallen in Israel."—*Correspondent of London Patriot.*

SELECTIONS.

ROMANTIC ADVENTURES OF A CHILD.—John Duncan, the son of a respectable working man in Liverpool, having been in Scotland for a few weeks last summer, with his mother and the rest of the family, contracted a strong attachment for the locality and the friends with whom he resided. Upon his return home he frequently requested his parents to consent to his return, and latterly became so importunate, that he had to be chastised in order to drive the notion from his mind of going to Scotland. Within the last few weeks, unknown to his father he had accumulated a small stock of bread and money; and on Monday last he might have been seen with two companions, directing their course towards the Clarence Dock, inquiring in the language of our hero for the "Stotland boat." Upon their arrival at the place of embarkation, all the glowing pictures of the land of cakes failed to induce his less courageous companions to go on board, but undaunted, the child went alone, without companion or guardian, a child seven years of age, with the Commodore, bound for Glasgow and Greenock. From the last mentioned port he had a further sea voyage to perform of twenty miles. In a lonely and mountainous district in the Island of Bute, upwards of 150 miles from the gas-lighted streets of his native Liverpool, the little voyager in the grey of evening approached the object of all his longings, a small farm-house, the inmates of which were gathering round the cheerful fireside, when a knock was heard at the door. When opened, they found to their astonishment, their little Saxon favourite of the previous summer, cold, wearied, and hungry; he received a truly Highland welcome, and soon forgot the toils and dangers of his perilous journey. He breakfasted on the banks of the Mersey on Monday morning, and on Tuesday night he slumbered in the land of the Celt. Such is the romance of steam.—*Liverpool Journal.*

CRITICAL HISTORIANS.—Gibbon, who, in his celebrated History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, has left a memorial of his enmity to the gospel, resided many years in Switzerland, where, with the profits of his works, he purchased a considerable estate. This property has descended to a gentleman, who, out of his rents, expends a large sum annually, in the promulgation of the very gospel which his predecessor insidiously endeavoured to undermine. Voltaire boasted that with one hand he would overthrow that edifice of Christianity which required the hands of fifteen apostles to build up. The press which he employed at Ferney, for printing his blasphemies, was afterwards actually employed at Geneva in printing the Holy Scriptures; thus the very engine which he set to work to destroy the credit of the Bible was employed in disseminating its truths. It is a remarkable circumstance, also, that the first provisional meeting for the re-formation of an auxiliary Bible Society at Edinburgh, was held in the very room in which David Hume, the infidel, died.

BOISTEROUS PREACHING.—A celebrated divine, who was remarkable in the first period of his ministry for a loud and boisterous mode of preaching, suddenly changed his whole manner in the pulpit, and adopted a mild and dispassionate mode of delivery. One of his brethren observing it, inquired of him what had induced him to make the change? He answered, "When I was young, I thought it was the thunder that killed the people, but as I grew wiser, I discovered that it was the lightning—so I determined to thunder less and lighten more in future."

STRAWBERRIES.—Is it not singular that so few provide themselves with a plentiful crop of this very early and most delicious fruit? Must, no doubt, be deterred by supposed difficulty and cost of culture. But by the following process, an acre of strawberries may be kept in the first bearing condition for any length of time, at no more cost than to cultivate an acre of corn, after the first setting out has been done. Set out the plants in rows about three feet apart, and a foot apart in the rows. Keep them clean and well cultivated, by a horse attached to the plough or cultivator, and in a year or two they will bear abundantly. In a year or two more, the plantation will want renewing; to do which, let the runners fill up the space between the rows, which has before been kept clean and in fine condition, and then plough under the old rows, leaving a strip of plants formed by the runners between them, for new rows. Cultivate between these new rows with the horse, as before; and so on indefinitely.

DIFFERENT LENGTH OF THE FINGERS.—The difference in the length of the fingers serves a thousand purposes, adapting the hand and fingers, as in holding a rod, a switch, a sword, a hammer, a pen or pencil, engraving tool, &c., in all which a secure hold and freedom of motion are admirable combined. Nothing is more remarkable, as forming a part of the prospective designs to prepare an instrument fitted for the various uses of the human hand, than the manner in which the delicate and moving apparatus of the palm and fingers is guarded. The power with which the hand grasps, as when a sailor lays hold to raise his body to the rigging, would be great for the texture of mere tendons, nerves, and vessels; they would be crushed, were not every