

He has for many years been connected as a large shareholder with our leading monetary institutions. He was for many years a director of the Bank of British North America, and transferred his services at the last annual meeting to the Bank of Montreal.

Some time ago he was visited with an attack, said at the time to be of paralysis or apoplexy, but he soon rallied from it, and seemed to be in his usual health. He was, however, later obliged to turn back from his spring expedition to the Red River, on account of bodily infirmity. The bustle and anxiety connected with the recent Royal visit, no doubt disturbed the even tenor of his life again. On Saturday last, he was again attacked with apoplexy while driving out from Montreal to Lachine, and after six days of much suffering, he closed his long and active life yesterday morning at half-past ten o'clock, surrounded by his family and immediate friends.

His death will be heard of with regret, not only by his many friends in this country, but by large numbers in Britain and the United States: for the Governor of the vast domains of the great Fur Company had obtained an almost world-wide reputation. We in Montreal will miss him most. He was one of the distinguished men whom we claimed as our own—one whose face was familiar to all who knew the notabilities of our city.

Sir George Simpson married in the year 1830, the daughter of Geddes M. Simpson, Esquire, of London, who died in this country in 1853. His family consists of one son and three daughters. The heir to the large fortune left by Sir George is at present in England. Of the daughters, one is married to Angus Cameron, Esq., of Toronto.—*Montreal Gazette.*

The following notice of the death of General Nicolls appears in an English paper. He had seen service in these British North American Provinces. The late General was the father of the Rev. Dr. Nicolls, Principal of Bishop's College, Lennoxville:—"We have to record the death of General Gustavus Nicolls, of the Royal Engineers, who died a few days since, at his residence near Southampton. The deceased general, who stood third in the list of his branch of the service, obtained the rank of second lieutenant in 1794. He had seen much active service in his early life, having gone out with several regiments as reinforcements to Gibraltar on the war breaking out with Spain in 1795, and remained blockaded in that fortress two years and a half. In 1799 he proceeded to the West Indies. In 1808 he accompanied Sir George Prevost to Nova Scotia, as commanding engineer, under expectation of hostilities with America, and remained there till the war broke out in 1812, and was actively employed in the protection of the frontiers of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. He was present at the capture of Moose Island, Castine, and Belfast. The late general was also commanding engineer in Canada part of 1814 and 1815. In July, 1851, he was appointed a colonel commandant of the Royal Engineers. His commissions bore date as follows:—Second lieutenant, Nov. 6, 1794; first lieutenant, March 3, 1797; captain, March 30 1802; brevet major, June 4, 1813; lieutenant colonel, Sept. 1, 1813; colonel, July 29, 1835; major general, Jan. 10, 1837; lieutenant general, Nov. 9, 1846; and general, June 20, 1854. A gallant officer was in his 80th year."

THE DISEASES WE DIE OF.—One man in a certain number of hundreds dies a natural death. The only natural death is "death by old age;" all the rest of the millions of mankind are cut off by preventable or curable diseases, accidents, and various violent and unnatural catastrophes.

From one-fourth to one-half of all children born into the world—the proportion varying according to locality and circumstances—die in infancy. There is one work-house in London, where for a series of years every infant—and there were hundreds—perishes the first year. There was not one solitary survivor.

The causes of infant mortality are—hereditary diseases, bad air, bad food, want of light, and uncleanness. Multitudes of children born in our cities breathe pestilence, nurse disease, are fed on opium, and live in filth and misery. When a human soul finds itself in such conditions, is it any wonder that it should be in a hurry to die out of them?

Besides these common causes of preventable disease and premature mortality, which affect adults as well as infants, there are causes of disease connected with many of the trades and employments of civilization. The stonemason fills his lungs with gritty dust, the miller, with flour; the coal miner, with the fine coal dust, with which the atmosphere of the mine is saturated; the grinder of steel and cutlery inhales a mixture of stone and metal, painters, white lead manufacturers, and potters, are poisoned with deadly effluvia and the absorption of metallic poison; gilders or looking-glass silverers are filled with mercury; cotton-spinners breathe an atmosphere filled with fine dust; shoemakers work in hot, close rooms, tailors are pleached with sedentary work, and poisoned with bad air; printers die early of bad ventilation, night-work, lead and antimony, in short, there are but few employments which supply the luxuries of civilization, which do not, at the same time, shorten human life.

The pictures on our walls owe some of its richest tints to arsenic, which poisons the manufacturer and hanger; the mirror which reflects our forms and adornments, and the gilded frame which adds to its elegance and splendour, have helped to inflict hopeless paralysis on the poor workmen who have made them, the glazed visiting cards on the table have struck with death the hand that covered them with enamel; the average life of the grinders who fashion our scissors and razors, is but thirty-

two years; while the grinders of steel forks die, on an average at twenty-nine. In England alone, 300,000 human beings are buried in coal mines, working in dust and grime, and dying of black lung, asthma, bronchitis, or heart disease, when not killed by choke-damp, explosions, or sudden inundations. Lead and copper mining carry off their thousands of victims. The makers of lucifer-matches become cadaverous, emaciated, and die of necrosis of the jaw-bone. Our beautiful pottery-ware is glazed with lead which paralyzes the hand of the workman. The file-cutter is poisoned with the lead on which he rests his file in process of manufacture. When these lead poisons are absorbed into the brain, mania succeeds to paralysis and colic, and the workmen die raving mad.

Even those employments considered most necessary are made the causes of a terrible mortality. Three-fourths of our journeymen bakers die young of consumption. Tailors and milliners, as employed in the large, fashionable establishments of our great city, are nearly as short-lived as the bakers. A well-dressed lady with embroideries, laces, artificial flowers, mirrors, and jewelry, may be imagined to be surrounded with the pale, blind, consumptive, and short-lived victims of the various arts which have furnished out her beautiful and luxurious decorations.

While millions of men and women are hurried out of life by the direct influence of unhealthy conditions and employments, millions more cut short their existence by the involuntary suicide of bad habits of eating and drinking, and vicious indulgences. While a few die of hunger, millions perish by disease caused by excess in eating and drinking. Intoxicating drinks destroy thousands—tens of thousands perish of gluttony. Opium, tobacco, and milder narcotics assist in the work of shortening human life. Commercial frauds, and the abominable adulterations of our food and drink, increase the mortality.

Every person, living in good habits and condition, may hope to arrive at a good old age, and die a natural death. What, then, must be the habits and conditions of a civilization in which premature mortality is the rule, and a healthy old age the very rare exception!—*Family Journal.*

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Montreal, March 1860.

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