

to the various missionaries among the tribes in Canada. Most of the missionaries had been living with the Indians for many years, some so long as ten, twenty, thirty, and even forty-four years. Among these questions were the following. "Is the health of the Indians under your superintendence generally good or otherwise, as contrasted with the health of the white population in the neighbourhood." "Do the tribes under your superintendence increase or decrease in number irrespective of migration." To these questions were received replies from twenty-five persons. Of these, *eleven* were to the effect that the health of the Indian was equal to that of the white, *four* uncertain, and *eight*, not so good. In *twelve* instances their number was on the *increase*, in *two* *stationary*, and in *eight* on the *decrease*.

Several of the missionaries remark that the principal disease among the Indians is consumption; but that this is due to exposure, and irregular dieting while upon their fishing and hunting expeditions; and also to their indulgence in strong drink. It is stated by a majority of those who reply that those tribes which have adopted a domestic life, and whose people partake of suitable food, are not particularly subject to consumptive diseases. It is also stated by many that the cause of the numerical decrease in a large number of the tribes, is due to the great mortality among the children, arising from their itinerant life.

From the facts and data at present available, and these are not unimportant, the conclusion is arrived at, that the aborigines of Canada—of America it may be said, whatever may be their ancestry, do not manifest a natural disposition to degenerate. With the same advantages of living as the whites, in similar circumstances as to comfort, they show no unusual proneness to tuberculosis, a disease which has received the credit of doing the work of gradual extinction.

THE EARLY COLONIZERS OF AMERICA.

More than two hundred years have passed away since Europeans became permanent occupiers of the New World. While Canada was taken possession of by the gallant and intrepid French under accomplished leaders, the bold and adventurous English were securing a footing in the present state of Virginia, and Commercial Holland was planting a colony in New York. Let us inquire respecting the descendants of these first colonizers of America, more particularly those resident in Canada.

THE FRENCH.

It is two hundred years since the effective settlement of Canada by the French took place, and it is now fully a hundred years since imigra-