The Watchman.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, AUG. 28, 1875.

THE CITY TAX LIST.

Having arranged for the preparation of a list of all City tax payers and the amount of their tax bills for 1875, we present an instalment of several columns of the list in this issue. Of our next and of each subsequent issue, we shall devote about six columns to the list, until it is completed. There will be about Seven Thousand names in all. Those of our citizens who take an interest in local taxation,—and it would seem that all are interested,—should preserve the numbers of THE WATCHMAN containing these names, and institute comparisons of the tax bills of those persons with whose circumstances they are familiar, and so satisfy themselves as to the equity of the Assessors in distributing the very large sum annually raised from the ratepayers. From information received we have been led to the conclusion that the levy is inequitable in many instances, but, with the figures before him, each rate-payer will be enabled to judge for himself as to the degree of intelligence which has been brought to bear on the preparation of this list. We repeat that this is not a list of "hundred dollar" or "fifty dollar men," but a full, complete and reliable statement of the amount of taxes paid by each and every city rate-payer on both sides of the harbor. Such a list is now given to the public for the first time since the City has attained to anything approaching its present population. We believe it will be found of great public utility and be the means of stimulating the existing discussion of the management of Civic affairs: it is with this object and in a corresponding spirit that it is offered, and not with a view of reflecting upon the Assessors or any who have had a hand in the distribution of the taxes.

THE BAY VERTE CANAL.

The Bay Verte Canal Commissioners have been visiting several points in the Lower Provinces, nominally with the object of obtaining information in reference to the Canal, the tenor of the information sought being indicated by a circular which they have addressed to a number of gentlemen who are supposed to know something about the benefits which the Canal, if constructed, is supposed to be capable of conferring. The following is a copy of the circular:—

BAY VERTE CANAL COMMISSION.
Halifax, Aug. 17, 1875.

SIR:—The Dominion Government having appointed a Commission to investigate the nature and extent of the Commercial advantages to be derived from the construction of the Bay Verte Canal, to connect the waters of the Bay of Fundy and the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the Commissioners are desirous of obtaining information in reference to the following matters, viz:—

1. The distance from the St. Lawrence, via the proposed Canal to the great Seaport of South America and the West Indies, and the Ports along the United States coasts, as compared with the route by the Straits of Canso or round Cape North.
2. The extent of the existing trade with these Ports and its probable prospective increase.
3. Whether it is probable that any or what portion of the Coast Trade from the northern coast of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton, or the southern coast of Newfoundland will be likely to seek an outlet by the proposed Canal.
4. The size of the vessels that might fairly be expected to trade through the proposed Canal, and whether said vessels, or steam vessels, will be on the same comparative footing as on the existing route by the mouth of the Gulf.
5. The nature and extent of the Local Trade affecting only the coasts of the Bay of Fundy, and the north coasts of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.
6. The nature and extent of the difficulties which might be encountered in getting into and out of the Canal on account of the extremely high tides in the Bay of Fundy.

The Commissioners would feel much obliged if you can make it convenient to meet them on a day to be appointed shortly, and supply them with so much of the required information as may be at your command.

I have the honor to be,
Sir, Your Obedient Servant,
F. BRAUN,
Secretary.

It was announced some time ago through the Government organs that the Commissioners would call on business men and others and take down, in short hand, from their lips what they had to say about the Canal Scheme. It does not appear that anyone has been invited to send in properly thought-out papers on the subject, which would be preferable to the loose statements which even careful business men are apt to make when replying offhand to interrogatories and without access to statistics and papers for reference. We dare say that the number who will appear before the Commission will not be large, and we shall be greatly surprised if the Commissioners gain any large amount of information from their "hop, skip and a jump" style of "doing" the Maritime Provinces. We know there are many influential friends of the Canal Scheme who regard the Commission as a sham and the enquiry as a farce, and who are not disposed to lend themselves to any make-believe device for ridding the Mackenzie Government of their proper responsibility in the matter. Such persons believe that gentlemen like John Young, J. W. Lawrence and Peter Jack are the merest Grit partisans, sent to perform certain political partisan work, and they expect them to do it effectually. For our own part, we have not the slightest confidence in the sincerity of the Government, after Messrs. Blake's and Mackenzie's Parliamentary deliverances on the subject; we hope for nothing favorable or friendly from the Commissioners; and we expect to find their report precisely what the Government wish it to be. In plain words, these gentlemen were sent down to give the finishing blow to a project which the Government had decided to kill but lacked the courage to openly avow their purpose. These gentlemen may not report against the Canal next session, as that would be killing the golden egged goose too quickly for their personal interests, but that they will in due time execute the bidding of their Reform friends in the Government, and do it thoroughly, need not be doubted by any person who has given the slightest consideration to the Government's and the Commissioners' attitude on the question. Journalists who avouch and teach to the contrary are merely misleading the public mind. We repeat: "the Bay Verte Canal" is dead, and nearly buried, so far as the Mackenzie Reform Government is concerned.

After the above had been handed to the printers, we received the following letter from one who had been present at the sham enquiry in the Board of Trade rooms:—

To the Editor of the Watchman:

SIR,—Did you go to the Government side-show, under the management of Hon. John Young, of Montreal, which has been exhibiting in the Board of Trade room this week? If not, you have missed a better farce than Fiske has played this season at the Academy. The transparency of the sham was apparent to every one present at any portion of the proceedings,—transparent even to those who were utterly ignorant of the manner in which the Commission was appointed and the purpose it was appointed to serve. The whole tenor of the inquiry, so far as it is an inquiry at all, is directly hostile to the Canal. Mr. Young does all the talking, even to dictating matter to the Secretary to be written down as the answers of witnesses, subject, of course, to interruptions from witnesses who are interested enough to guard against being misrepresented too grossly. It is just like a play, the manner in which Mr. Young makes statements to witnesses, in condemnation of the Canal, gets their assent thereto, and then dictates it in a still stronger form to Mr. Braun. Mr. Jack puts in a word occasionally, when he thinks the statements a little too favorable to Bay of Fundy navigation or the prospects of the Canal; and the other member of the Commission—Mr. J. W. Lawrence—is prevented by the aural infirmity with which he is unfortunately afflicted, from taking any part in the inquiry, or understanding the spirit of hostility to the Canal in which questions are put. Thus the interests of St. John are wholly unrepresented, and Mr. Young is left free to put leading questions to witnesses for the purpose of disparaging the work, and amass a mountain of worthless evidence against it. The Government's little game is succeeding to a charm; nothing could work better than it does. Witnesses are got to say that the Canal would be useless; Captains who were never up the Bay are got to say that they would not trust vessels larger than wood-boats at the Canal's entrance; arguments against the possibility of the Canal's paying expenses are made; statements to the effect that freights would be higher via the Canal from Montreal to St. John than by Gulf steamers and railway, are expressed; and doubts of the probability of return cargoes of any kind being forthcoming in the Bay for Gulf shipping are uttered, all by Mr. Young, Chairman of the Commission, in an emphatic manner, and the assent of many witnesses with not much interest in the subject, or much knowledge of the nature of the trade, obtained thereto, when the arguments, statements and doubts are duly recorded as having sprung spontaneously from the witnesses! Our Mr. Lawrence, when he sits down nightly to the perusal of Mr. Braun's record, is startled at the weight of testimony against St. John's pet project, but has no knowledge of the manner in which it was manufactured by his associates before his own eyes. What a farce! What a Commission! John Young, Peter Jack and J. W. Lawrence! The interests of New Brunswick on one side, and the politics of the Government on the other. I have made inquiries about this Mr. Young, and find that he is a mere representative of the Government, that he could not support his "wife and twelve children" (to quote from an appeal for Government pap which he once made to a former Government) without public employment; that he is certain to do all he can in support of the predetermined purpose of his employers to throw the Canal over; that he is personally interested in the Gulf Ports steamers running from Montreal and Quebec to Shediac, and that he has a Canal charter of his own that he may hope to sell if the revenues are not burdened with too many Canal schemes. So much for Mr. Young. Mr. Jack is the representative of the Halifax clique that opposes the Canal for fear it will benefit St. John. So much for him. And Mr. Lawrence is the St. John man whom the Government has chosen to contend with their own voices.—Mr. Lawrence, whose infirmities render him utterly powerless in the hands of his colleagues!

How thankful the merchants of St. John should be to Mr. Burns for giving them representation on the Commission! Mr. Braun, a salaried officer of the Government, helps on the show in a spirit of loyalty to the men who might deprive him of his snug office any day, carefully recording every statement so that it will do the most good in support of the Government policy of hostility to the Canal. Can he be expected to do otherwise? I do not blame him, or Young, or Jack, for being opposed to the work—for doing the work they were appointed to do; nor do I blame Mr. Lawrence for not doing what the interests of St. John require him to do, because he is not able to do it; but you and I and all of us—all who had trusted to the solemn pledges of Cabinet Ministers that the Canal would be built—must hold this Government responsible for the appointment of such a Commission for the purpose of enabling our Ontario rulers to shuffle off this Canal with a show of decency and consistency.

Yours,
SPECTATOR.

The people of New Brunswick, and especially the inhabitants of St. John, Westmorland and the North Shore Counties, will now understand from the spirit in which Mr. Young and Mr. Jack are conducting their mission, exactly what it is the Government desire, and how admirably the agents employed are adapted to the work to be accomplished. Already the true spirit of the Government journals in Halifax are announcing that the Commissioners have secured evidence enough to dispose of the Canal Scheme, and journals favorable to the Government, both in Westmorland and Northumberland, are urging projects which foreshadow the abandonment of the Bay Verte undertaking. And so, exit Bay Verte Canal!

MODEL GOVERNMENT CONTRACTORS.

The people of Canada who have heard so much of Sir Hugh Allan's "corruption," and who punished the late Government because of its connection with Allan in the elections, will read with interest some facts which we have taken from *Harper's Weekly* in reference to Messrs. Belden, Dennison & Co., who were the leaders in the Erie Canal Contract frauds and are now the favorite contractors of the Reform Government of Canada for the expensive improvements on the Welland Canal. The people of New York State for months past have been excited over these Canal frauds, and Governor Tilden has won praise from his political opponents, as well as in his own party, for the able and thorough manner in which he has assailed and tracked the men who have added so enormously to the public burthens in connexion with these public contracts. *Harper's Weekly* says:—

The report itself must be held to understand how in the work upon the canals every requirement of law is perverted or evaded, and how thousands of dollars are stolen from the State Treasury by means of official falsehood. It will help the reader to some apprehension of the system and of the amount of the frauds if we state that the Denison contract covered a space of canal repairs less than eight miles in length, and that Denison agreed to do the work for $74,183, and that when it was about two-thirds done he had received $401,260. This enormous sum was made up by false measurement and computation; by charging the State twice for work not done, as by pretending to make excavations that were never made, and putting back the same rock and earth as embankment, all though they had not been disturbed. Fully one-third of the whole amount paid by the State upon this contract, $150,337 is for work which has not been done. It is a sheer theft from the Treasury. The surveys, maps, and estimates which the law requires were never made. The Canal Commissioners certified that they had seen maps and plans and estimates which did not exist. The Canal Board resolved that these imaginary documents should be adopted. The contract was advertised and let without any authority having the knowledge of the work and the materials which the law requires. A large percentage of the money paid upon the contract was paid with a full knowledge that the work had not been done. Not a single yard of the work done corresponds to the specifications. No assistant has been removed or rebuked for making false measurements and estimates, or for accepting dishonest work. Yet had the laws of the State and the regulations of the Canal Board been enforced, the work could have been already done for the sum originally appropriated. The commission concludes that the false and fraudulent measures, estimates, and allowances were only possible through the culpable neglect or connivance of the Canal Commissioners, O. Bascom and John D. Fay, the engineers, and the inspectors in charge.

All good citizens are indebted to the gentlemen of the Commission for their fidelity and efficiency in investigating and exposing these frauds, and to Governor Tilden for calling the attention of the Legislature and of the State to them, for recommending the inquiry, and for instructing the Attorney-General to bring suit, which he has done. Orders of arrest have been issued, with the bail fixed at $200,000."

All America was ringing with the noise created by the investigation of the frauds, every newspaper was publishing the particulars, when the Reform Government of Canada decided to award to these sharpers one of the largest and most important contracts it has ever been in its power to make!

LARGE SALES OF GLOVES.—The neat and thoughtfulness with which Messrs. Mackenzie Brothers have worked up their sales of the finer qualities of Kid Gloves is evidenced by the immense sales which this young firm have been enabled to make. We are probably within the mark in stating their sales to be from 400 to 500 pairs per month, and none but superior makes are sent out of their store. A leading feature of their glove trade is the large number of orders by mail and express which they constantly receive from parties at a distance, who, having once made a purchase from the Mackenzies, always go back for more when the necessity arises. Only experienced glovers could handle the large patronage which has fallen to the lot of this house, without blundering and without disappointing their patrons; but it is a speciality which the members of this firm have taken great pride in working up and the success of which amply justifies the care, forethought, courtesy and money they have devoted to it.

DEATH.—George McNutt, the sailor, having been found guilty of the murder of his shipmate, was yesterday sentenced by Judge Fisher to be hanged on the fourth of December. McNutt protested his innocence and declared that the Austrian was killed by Dean.

CLERICAL INFLUENCE AT ELECTIONS.

The Toronto *Nation* thus summarizes the issues said to be at stake in a contested election trial:

"The Montmagny election is to be contested on the novel ground of undue clerical influence, and therefore it will be remarkable above all other previous election trials in this country, which, as a rule, have turned upon bribery and corruption. Undue clerical influence is another name for intimidation and coercion of the most powerful kind; and according to the petition presented against the return of M. Landry, this power was used against the opposition candidate in the most unjustifiable manner. The Roman Catholic is the religion of all the electors of Montmagny. It is alleged "that before and at the time of the last election, the Roman Catholic priests in the interest of M. Landry, and with his knowledge and consent, exercised moral and religious pressure upon the minds of the electors, representing falsely and illegally the party to which M. Langelier belonged, the Liberal party, as an infamous party, dangerous and hostile to the ministers of the Roman Catholic religion, and the party to which M. Landry belonged as the only party for which Roman Catholics could vote." It is further alleged "that the priests menaced those electors who should vote for M. Langelier with the pains and punishments of the church—and also with the pains and punishments of the other life; and this not only in their public sermons and discourses in the discharge of their offices in the church, but in private discourse and conversations with the electors." It is also stated that the priests "intimidated, influenced and forced a great part of the electors to vote for M. Landry and against M. Langelier, who would otherwise have abstained from voting, and that in consequence of undue clerical influence and the general system of intimidation practised towards the electors, the election of M. Landry ought to be declared null and void." Such is the complaint of the friends of the defeated Liberal candidate as set forth in *Le Canadien*, a journal favorable to the opposite cause. That journal, in the strain of the Syllabus, meets the charge of undue clerical influence by scoffing at the idea which it contends is insinuated, that town that he may hope to sell if the revenues are not burdened with too many Canal schemes. So much for Mr. Young. Mr. Jack is the representative of the Halifax clique that opposes the Canal for fear it will benefit St. John. So much for him. And Mr. Lawrence is the St. John man whom the Government has chosen to contend with their own voices.—Mr. Lawrence, whose infirmities render him utterly powerless in the hands of his colleagues!

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THE PROVINCIAL LUNATIC ASYLUM.

Intemperance and its results—Various phases of Lunacy—Physical causes and mental effects—Statistical—The record of thirty-nine years—Discipline, etc., etc.

In order to correctly estimate the actual benefit which any society or public institution confers upon the community at large, statistics are the best evidence by which we can judge of the progress made. But to a large number of persons a long array of figures is usually dry and uninteresting reading. In the present article we intend to dispense as much as possible with calculations, averages and per centages, except such as are absolutely necessary to an intelligent comprehension of the vast importance of such an institution as the Provincial Lunatic Asylum.

Situated in a picturesque locality, comprising about forty acres, surrounded on all sides with pleasant views of garden, farm, and foliage and river, the spectator would at first sight suppose the pile of buildings to be the seat of some collegiate institution, were it not for the bars which separate the unfortunate inmates from the outer world. The comparison between the temporary Asylum first opened in 1836, with its thirty-one patients, and the present accommodation for the protection of the insane, is too apparent to call for any remark, other than this,—that there is scarcely anything wanting to complete the professional and domestic treatment of the patients at the present time.

It may sound paradoxical to speak of comfort in connection with a lunatic; but even some of those unfortunates whom we saw, have yet a glimmering of appreciation left for the provision made for their welfare.

In considering the various phases of

INSANITY ARISING FROM INTEMPERANCE,

the following correspondence, published twenty years ago, in the *New Brunswicker*, long since defunct, will be found interesting, as it proves how conservative the laws of Nature are in their relation to the results of the abuse of the physical forces through drink, which violation is developed in the various forms of insanity therein described.

"WEDNESDAY, 4th April, 1855.

"MR. TILLEY, *Editor, &c.*—In your paper of yesterday I notice a reference to a letter addressed by me to the Hon. Provincial Secretary, in reply to enquiries of his on the bearing of intemperance on insanity. Will you do me the favor to publish a copy of that letter, that those who take an interest in the subject may be able to judge for themselves of the correctness of the construction put upon it by the reporter of the speech of the Hon. Mr. Tilley.

I am, dear sir, yours truly,
JNO. WADDELL."

"PROVINCIAL LUNATIC ASYLUM,
ST. JOHN, N. B., January 31, 1855.

"MY DEAR SIR,—Your favor of the 25th inst. was received on Saturday evening. Yesterday I devoted my leisure in examining the records of this institution for the last year, to ascertain for your information how far intemperance had affected the number of the lunatics. Of one hundred and eight admissions, insanity, in about *twenty cases*, may be traced *directly* to that cause. But many of the patients being sent here in charge of public officers, who know but little—and seem to care less—about the history of the disease, it is impossible to trace it.

"The class to which I have referred, when they recover, tell the story themselves. But the epileptic, the imbecile and the demented usually come in a hopeless condition, to languish out what remains of a miserable existence, and are utterly unable to give any rational account of the origin of their ailments, while their friends, if they have any, profess to be ignorant of, or wilfully deny the existence of, any vicious propensity.

"It requires, however, no very vivid imagination to figure *a large number* of these to be the progeny of intemperate parents—conceived under the excitement of alcoholic stimulus—developed subject to continuous nervous irritation—nourished from a vitiated fountain from conception till birth, and from birth through infancy, and all the while liable to blows, falls and other injuries consequent upon the kind of life such persons lead, it would certainly be no marvel that idiocy, imbecility, &c., should result. Of this I offer no case on our record as proof; but numerous other circumstances indicate how much misery *may possibly*, proceed *indirectly* from the use of alcoholic stimulants. Nay more, [illegible] is my settled conviction, that *much* of the hopeless mass of wreck and ruin, always to be found in Institutions such as this, and which [illegible] so ruinously to the expense, is induced in the manner described.

* * *

Yours most sincerely
"HON. S. L. TILLEY, JNO. WADDELL."

What was written twenty years ago still holds good to-day. The reader will have noticed that the writer refers to two kinds of insanity resulting from intemperance, viz:—*Direct* and *indirect*. Of these phases we had the opportunity of seeing four remarkable illustrations. The first was that of the wreck of a man, aged forty-one, reduced to imbecility through the long abuse of alcoholic stimulants. This blighted sample of humanity was indeed a pitable sight to look upon. Through continual excess his brain power had become *hopelessly destroyed*. In the second instance, a male patient, aged about 25, had lost all power of speech; the result of his intemperate habits, and was the victim of insanity; which so far affected his brain as to paralyze the power of the nerves supplying the tongue; thus rendering him speechless. Vigorous, strong, and otherwise healthy, possessing bright, intelligent features, he has been placed here with but little prospect of ever recovering his former mental condition. A third direct form—still more shocking in its aspect—was that of a woman, whose age we could not ascertain, but who appeared to be about 45 years old. Her haggard, discoloured and mottled countenance, disfigured through years of excess and without the faintest perception of reason, were too revolting to contemplate. Wandering up and down the corridor, looking vacantly into space, the wretched female creature's existence is scarcely inferior to that of the lowest type of animal. One vast, terrible, hopeless blank lay before her, with not even the feeblest ray of light to illumine the dark caverns of her wasted intellect.

The *indirect* form of intemperance spoken of by Dr. Waddell, with reference to the progeny of intemperate persons, is singularly illustrated in the case of a patient whom we saw of 14 years of age, whose idiocy is directly attributable to the gross drunkenness of the father. The poor boy has indeed a heavy penalty to pay for the sins of his parent. The face was that of the lowest grade of humanity, lit up now and then with a meaningless smile of utter imbecility. When in repose it is dull, heavy and stupid. As we saw him staggering along the floor in the most abject positions, now crouching on his hands and knees; now doubled up like some old man of eighty, the thought occurred to us—until we were sickened by its terrible import—has such a wretched being as this a soul? Language is not sufficiently copious to fittingly describe the miserable reality before us. Some of our readers may have heard the eloquence of Gough, or have read the vivid pen pictures of Father Mathew upon the subject of intemperance; but the best and most impressive lecture, and one which would be more likely to have a permanent and beneficial effect upon any one given to the habitual abuse of liquor, is, to take such an one to the Lunatic Asylum and there let him see for himself the mental degradation of the victims of drunkenness. If the spectator possess the ordinary feelings of humanity, he will come away a changed and reformed man.

OTHER PHASES.

It may be within the recollection of some of our readers that in the edition of the WATCHMAN of July 24th in an article on "Wandering Troubadours," we referred to the manner in which melodies were changed upon the barrel-organs used by itinerant street musicians. Greatly to our astonishment, we saw in the Asylum a patient similarly employed, in arranging a tune upon the cylinder of the organ used in the chapel of that institution. The process requires considerable skill, exquisite correctness of ear, and a thorough musical knowledge in adapting the melodies to the exact position on the roller. This is done on a modification of the same principle as is employed in arranging the pins on the roller of a musical box. The pins are made of brass wire and are somewhat larger than those used in the latter instrument. We found the operator to be a harmless, inoffensive old gentleman, and his conversation was intelligent and interesting. There was nothing about him which, to us, indicated insanity, and he was quite at home with his subject. He told us that it usually takes two days to arrange and adapt a simple melody, and that he found that the hymn tunes worked very well indeed. Upon enquiry we ascertained that he [illegible] and was suffering from a delusion the result of over sensitiveness of temperament.

Another extraordinary instance of the freaks of insane persons was shown in the fact that a young woman of about twenty-six years of age, who is perfectly sane *inside* the Asylum, has formed an intense aversion to seeing her relatives, and whenever they are brought into her presence she gives way to ungovernable fits of hysteria and passion. For this reason she has been confined in the Institution.

A SINGULAR CASE.

A still more peculiar condition of lunacy is that of a female patient, 21 years of age, who labors under the delusion that she is beyond the pale of salvation; that she is irredeemably lost; and that no effort will ever succeed in restoring her to her former condition of grace as a professed member of the Methodist church, to which denomination she formerly belonged. In other respects she is quite sane. The peculiar features connected with her case warrant a passing mention. Some time ago she attended a Methodist revival, the stirring scenes at which so wrought upon her imagination that it led to her becoming an inmate of this Institution. Her conversation would at first sight suppose the pile of buildings to be the seat of some collegiate institution, were it not for the bars which separate the unfortunate inmates from the outer world. The comparison between the temporary Asylum first opened in 1836, with its thirty-one patients, and the present accommodation for the protection of the insane, is too apparent to call for any remark, other than this,—that there is scarcely anything wanting to complete the professional and domestic treatment of the patients at the present time.

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"MR. TILLEY, *Editor, &c.*—In your paper of yesterday I notice a reference to a letter addressed by me to the Hon. Provincial Secretary, in reply to enquiries of his on the bearing of intemperance on insanity. Will you do me the favor to publish a copy of that letter, that those who take an interest in the subject may be able to judge for themselves of the correctness of the construction put upon it by the reporter of the speech of the Hon. Mr. Tilley.

I am, dear sir, yours truly,
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"PROVINCIAL LUNATIC ASYLUM,
ST. JOHN, N. B., January 31, 1855.

"MY DEAR SIR,—Your favor of the 25th inst. was received on Saturday evening. Yesterday I devoted my leisure in examining the records of this institution for the last year, to ascertain for your information how far intemperance had affected the number of the lunatics. Of one hundred and eight admissions, insanity, in about *twenty cases*, may be traced *directly* to that cause. But many of the patients being sent here in charge of public officers, who know but little—and seem to care less—about the history of the disease, it is impossible to trace it.

"The class to which I have referred, when they recover, tell the story themselves. But the epileptic, the imbecile and the demented usually come in a hopeless condition, to languish out what remains of a miserable existence, and are utterly unable to give any rational account of the origin of their ailments, while their friends, if they have any, profess to be ignorant of, or wilfully deny the existence of, any vicious propensity.

"It requires, however, no very vivid imagination to figure *a large number* of these to be the progeny of intemperate parents—conceived under the excitement of alcoholic stimulus—developed subject to continuous nervous irritation—nourished from a vitiated fountain from conception till birth, and from birth through infancy, and all the while liable to blows, falls and other injuries consequent upon the kind of life such persons lead, it would certainly be no marvel that idiocy, imbecility, &c., should result. Of this I offer no case on our record as proof; but numerous other circumstances indicate how much misery *may possibly*, proceed *indirectly* from the use of alcoholic stimulants. Nay more, [illegible] is my settled conviction, that *much* of the hopeless mass of wreck and ruin, always to be found in Institutions such as this, and which [illegible] so ruinously to the expense, is induced in the manner described.

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Yours most sincerely
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What was written twenty years ago still holds good to-day. The reader will have noticed that the writer refers to two kinds of insanity resulting from intemperance, viz:—*Direct* and *indirect*. Of these phases we had the opportunity of seeing four remarkable illustrations. The first was that of the wreck of a man, aged forty-one, reduced to imbecility through the long abuse of alcoholic stimulants. This blighted sample of humanity was indeed a pitable sight to look upon. Through continual excess his brain power had become *hopelessly destroyed*. In the second instance, a male patient, aged about 25, had lost all power of speech; the result of his intemperate habits, and was the victim of insanity; which so far affected his brain as to paralyze the power of the nerves supplying the tongue; thus rendering him speechless. Vigorous, strong, and otherwise healthy, possessing bright, intelligent features, he has been placed here with but little prospect of ever recovering his former mental condition. A third direct form—still more shocking in its aspect—was that of a woman, whose age we could not ascertain, but who appeared to be about 45 years old. Her haggard, discoloured and mottled countenance, disfigured through years of excess and without the faintest perception of reason, were too revolting to contemplate. Wandering up and down the corridor, looking vacantly into space, the wretched female creature's existence is scarcely inferior to that of the lowest type of animal. One vast, terrible, hopeless blank lay before her, with not even the feeblest ray of light to illumine the dark caverns of her wasted intellect.

The *indirect* form of intemperance spoken of by Dr. Waddell, with reference to the progeny of intemperate persons, is singularly illustrated in the case of a patient whom we saw of 14 years of age, whose idiocy is directly attributable to the gross drunkenness of the father. The poor boy has indeed a heavy penalty to pay for the sins of his parent. The face was that of the lowest grade of humanity, lit up now and then with a meaningless smile of utter imbecility. When in repose it is dull, heavy and stupid. As we saw him staggering along the floor in the most abject positions, now crouching on his hands and knees; now doubled up like some old man of eighty, the thought occurred to us—until we were sickened by its terrible import—has such a wretched being as this a soul? Language is not sufficiently copious to fittingly describe the miserable reality before us. Some of our readers may have heard the eloquence of Gough, or have read the vivid pen pictures of Father Mathew upon the subject of intemperance; but the best and most impressive lecture, and one which would be more likely to have a permanent and beneficial effect upon any one given to the habitual abuse of liquor, is, to take such an one to the Lunatic Asylum and there let him see for himself the mental degradation of the victims of drunkenness. If the spectator possess the ordinary feelings of humanity, he will come away a changed and reformed man.

OTHER PHASES.

It may be within the recollection of some of our readers that in the edition of the WATCHMAN of July 24th in an article on "Wandering Troubadours," we referred to the manner in which melodies were changed upon the barrel-organs used by itinerant street musicians. Greatly to our astonishment, we saw in the Asylum a patient similarly employed, in arranging a tune upon the cylinder of the organ used in the chapel of that institution. The process requires considerable skill, exquisite correctness of ear, and a thorough musical knowledge in adapting the melodies to the exact position on the roller. This is done on a modification of the same principle as is employed in arranging the pins on the roller of a musical box. The pins are made of brass wire and are somewhat larger than those used in the latter instrument. We found the operator to be a harmless, inoffensive old gentleman, and his conversation was intelligent and interesting. There was nothing about him which, to us, indicated insanity, and he was quite at home with his subject. He told us that it usually takes two days to arrange and adapt a simple melody, and that he found that the hymn tunes worked very well indeed. Upon enquiry we ascertained that he [illegible] and was suffering from a delusion the result of over sensitiveness of temperament.

Another extraordinary instance of the freaks of insane persons was shown in the fact that a young woman of about twenty-six years of age, who is perfectly sane *inside* the Asylum, has formed an intense aversion to seeing her relatives, and whenever they are brought into her presence she gives way to ungovernable fits of hysteria and passion. For this reason she has been confined in the Institution.

A SINGULAR CASE.

A still more peculiar condition of lunacy is that of a female patient, 21 years of age, who labors under the delusion that she is beyond the pale of salvation; that she is irredeemably lost; and that no effort will ever succeed in restoring her to her former condition of grace as a professed member of the Methodist church, to which denomination she formerly belonged. In other respects she is quite sane. The peculiar features connected with her case warrant a passing mention. Some time ago she attended a Methodist revival, the stirring scenes at which so wrought upon her imagination that it led to her becoming an inmate of this Institution. Her conversation would at first sight suppose the pile of buildings to be the seat of some collegiate institution, were it not for the bars which separate the unfortunate inmates from the outer world. The comparison between the temporary Asylum first opened in 1836, with its thirty-one patients, and the present accommodation for the protection of the insane, is too apparent to call for any remark, other than this,—that there is scarcely anything wanting to complete the professional and domestic treatment of the patients at the present time.

It may sound paradoxical to speak of comfort in connection with a lunatic; but even some of those unfortunates whom we saw, have yet a glimmering of appreciation left for the provision made for their welfare.

In considering the various phases of

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