

even only four gallons of pure whisky, to make a barrel of the whisky of commerce. To these are added rain water, camphene, and arsenic; the latter to restore the bead destroyed by water. He stated also that brandy made to imitate the real French brandy, and of materials of the most poisonous character, was sold at \$4 the gallon, costing only twenty-two cents. That all kinds of wine were imitated so closely, that the best judges could not discriminate them; costing but a trifle, and sold at prices to suit customers. The higher the standing of the customer, and the more particular as to his wines, the higher the price, to satisfy him as to quality. The most celebrated European dealers were quoted, as to the source of supply; and European dealers, be it known, are not much behind, but much in advance of the American trader, in their adulterations. He quotes an advertisement from a chemist in New York, who is "now prepared to furnish the flavorings for every kind of liquor." We have known personally several such frauds. The devil is carrying on no greater farce in the "fashionable world," than what is called wine-drinking. The poor coxcombs who smack their lips over their glasses, are only drugging themselves. If a physician should prescribe their drams, letting them know meanwhile their real composition, there would be a general insurrection against the faculty. *C. A. Journal.*

#### USES OF SNOW.

*From the New England Farmer*

In this community, where the people are rained to believe that there is a wise purpose to be accomplished by all the phenomena of nature—the religious as well as the philosophical mind is curious to search out the advantages to be derived from them. The beneficent influence of rain, by giving moisture to the earth and purifying the atmosphere, is apparent to all. But the uses of snow are less obvious, though it truly is one of the greatest blessings of Providence. Our readers will recollect the unprecedented quantities of snow that fell during the last winter; let us carefully note some of the phenomena that attended it. Through this uniform mass of snow, which fell simultaneously over the whole North American continent above the latitude of 36°, the heat of the earth's surface could not escape, being confined as by a thick blanket. Hence a nearly uniform degree of cold suddenly pervaded all this large extent of territory, because the atmosphere was no longer warmed by the radiation of heat from the earth's surface. The principal sources of heat were from the region south of the snow-clad territory, and from the ocean; but the currents from the north containing a dense and heavier atmosphere, were sufficient to overpower any current that might pass against them from any other direction. Hence snow-storm followed upon snow-storm, until the winds from the ocean were reduced to nearly the same temperature with the overland atmosphere, and were exhausted of their superfluous moisture. By this time such a mass of snow covered the whole continent, as to make it evident that the power of the sun's rays in the spring must be present, before it could be melted away.

The first apparent consequence of this body of snow was the uniform cold temperature of the weather that prevailed. There were no sudden changes, as usual, from thawing, mildness to extreme cold. One unchangeable temperature but a few degrees above zero prevailed throughout the winter. The wisdom of physicians and the common sense of mankind agree in considering this uniformity of tem-

perature as highly favorable to health. Colds, fevers and consumptions are always the most prevalent in a changeable climate, and during a changeable season. Hence it has been lately thought by some physicians that consumptive patients would do better to spend their winters in Canada than in Georgia. Last winter, was healthy, because the weather, though severely cold, was even; and this evenness was the effect of the universal covering of snow. The heat that would have ascended from the earth was shut in; and the rays of the sun could not produce an extraordinary amount of heat, because they acted only upon a bright reflecting surface. Thus it is evident that a general covering of snow is favorable to health by promoting an evenness of temperature.

#### CANADIAN MARRIAGE ACT.

The Editor of the *Christian Guardian* has recently published a review of this subject, designed to show the necessity of the "motion" lately made in parliament, for the introduction of a Bill to remedy the defects of the statute now in force. As the subject is an important one, it is deemed proper to present the readers of the *Tribune* with the material features of the review alluded to as follows:—

The first Provincial Act was passed in the second session of the first Parliament which met at Niagara, and is dated July 9th, 1793. The first clause of this Act rendered "valid the marriages of all persons not being under any canonical disability to contract matrimony, and whose marriages had been publicly contracted before any Magistrate, or Commanding officer of a Post, or Adjutant or Surgeon of a Regiment, acting as Chaplain, or any other person in any public office," in consequence of "there being no Protestant Parson or Minister, duly ordained, residing in any part of the said Province, nor any consecrated Protestant Church or Chapel within the same." The third clause of the same Act provided, "That until such time as there should be five persons—Ministers of the Church of England, severally in absent or doing duty on and in their respective parishes or places of residence, in any one District within this Province," matrimony might be solemnized by any Justice of the Peace "provided that neither parties lived within eighteen miles of any Parson or Minister of the Church of England." The fifth clause of this Act provided that as soon as there were five Parsons or Ministers of the Church of England in any one district, the Governor, or person administering the government should give notice of the fact, and after the reading of the notice at the first General Quarter Sessions after its issue, then the authority of the Justices of the Peace within the District was to cease. The other clauses of the Act defined the other forms and conditions to be observed, but as these are not essential to the design of this review, they need not be noticed. The next legislation upon this question was in 1798, at York, and the Act is dated July 5th. Omitting the preamble, the following are the clauses of the Act passed that year, which provide for "the solemnization of matrimony by ministers of certain other congregations or religious community," and "it will be seen how vexatious and tedious the proceedings might be and were frequently rendered, when the law was administered by such persons as were usually the 'powers that be' in those times:—

"That from and after the passing of this Act, it shall and may be lawful to and for the minister or clergyman of any congregation or religious community of persons, professing to be members of the Church