

child-producing countries. The following table shows that in the year aforementioned the number of births in the seven Provinces and the wild territories which compose the Dominion was as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Quebec	27,297	25,710	53,007
Ontario	29,172	27,258	56,430
Prince Edward Island	1,659	1,604	3,263
Nova Scotia	6,375	6,010	12,385
New Brunswick	5,060	4,718	9,778
Manitoba	1,088	1,094	2,182
British Columbia	491	508	999
The Territories	164	126	290
Total	71,305	67,028	138,334

This is a very fair result for Canada at large, but in the individual case of Quebec, it shows that this Province, comparatively, leads all the others by a very long distance. The figures for British Columbia, and especially the Territories, are not to be taken as representing the actual increase therein, for they are only partial, owing to the difficulty of collecting such statistics in wild and unsettled regions.

Of the births enumerated the census has shown a very accurate discrimination as to sex. The number of males born in the census year was 71,305; the number of females 67,028, or 4,378 less. There thus appears to have been 106.4 males to every 100 females; a disparity which may be accepted as representing very nearly the average difference over a series of years. In the larger Provinces the same proportions of sex are very nearly the same as the general average. In Ontario the proportion is 107.1 to 100; in Quebec the excess of males is not so great. In Manitoba and British Columbia there are more females than males, a circumstance which is both fortunate and opportune for these younger provinces. It is rather a singular coincidence that the older Provinces which supply the younger portions of the Dominion with male immigrants should have an excess of female birds, while the younger Provinces should have an excess of female birds to counterbalance the number of male immigrants.

The birth rate per thousand of the population would, according to the above totals, be as follows:

Quebec	39.0
Ontario	39.3
Prince Edward Island	39.3
Nova Scotia	38.44
New Brunswick	39.44
Manitoba	33.0
British Columbia	20.2
The Territories	15.4
The Dominion	31.9

For a juvenile Province, Manitoba shows exceedingly well, outstripping all its sister provinces, except Quebec, by a good majority. This is all the more to be wondered at, from the fact that Manitoba has only been briefly settled and not thoroughly at that, a condition of affairs which necessarily produced an unfavorable dullness in the matrimonial market and left the province largely in the hands of unmarried people. Quebec's record, on the other hand, stands unrivaled and unquestioned. The continued largeness of its birth-rate is the best evidence of the general moral and physical health of our people. What the Province does not receive from immigration, it is able to produce unto itself. There is a startling difference between the natural increase of Ontario and of Quebec, there being one-quarter more births in the latter than in the former.

The *Witness* will please notice that this case is from Queen's County, the same wherein Mother Stanley resides. This fact would go to prove that she had full opportunity to learn, by personal observation and experience, the state of affairs which she so vigorously denounces in her letter to the confiding friend of the *Witness*. It gives us pain to be so often forced to correct our esteemed contemporary, but the task must be performed, when the cause of truth and justice will be served thereby.

A MEAGRE CONCESSION.

A DESPATCH from Ottawa intimates that the Government has decided to take action on the petition presented to it last week by the Montreal Corn Exchange and Board of Trade, praying for the abolition of the canal tolls in view of their disastrous effect upon the grain trade. It appears, however, that Sir John Macdonald could not see his way to grant the whole demand made upon him. He has decided to comply only partly with the representations of the delegation. There will consequently be no abolition, but simply a reduction of the tolls to one-half rates, and that only on east-bound wheat. This arrangement, moreover, is only to hold good for the present season. This is but a very meagre concession to the unanimous demand of the commercial men of the country for free canals, and there is every prospect that, owing to its insignificance, it will not have the desired effect of reviving and increasing the trade of the St. Lawrence. It is only a half-hearted measure, and, like all half-hearted things, it will more probably fail to remedy the situation.

The despatch further naively informs us that if the reduction has the desired effect, it is possible that the tolls will be removed altogether. We should rather think that the total abolition should be dependent, not upon the success, but upon the failure of the reduction, to attract the grain trade of the West to our seaports. But then, inconsistent or contradictory action is very often what governments are capable of, and it is to be supposed that Sir John's is no exception to the general rule.

FESTIVAL AT ST. HYACINTHE.

The Rev. A. Deneau, of the College of St. Hyacinthe, has addressed a circular to all the former pupils of the College, inviting them to a grand celebration to be held at St. Hyacinthe on the first of July. In 1878 a convention of all the former pupils took place, when His Grace Archibishop Taschereau proposed that a fund should be raised to erect a chapel as a monument of gratitude to the founders, professors and benefactors of the institution. This proposal was received with much enthusiasm and a committee was at once appointed to carry the scheme into execution. The committee worked with such great zeal that the chapel is now completed, and the College authorities again call all their former pupils to assemble for the inauguration ceremony, which takes place on the 1st of July, this date having been selected as the most convenient for those living at a distance, who will visit Canada on the occasion of the St. Jean Baptiste celebration.

OTTAWA.—A gentleman writes from Ottawa that after using three bottles of Gouten Fruit Bitters he was completely cured of dyspepsia and indigestion.

CONFIRMATION AT ST. ANN'S.

The Ceremony Last Thursday—Father David's Sermon to the Children—The Music—The Attendance, etc., etc.

At 7 o'clock Thursday evening the children of St. Ann's School assembled at the Presbyterian church and marched in procession to the church, under the guidance of the Sisters and Brothers of the school, and followed by the Right Rev. Bishop of Montreal, who was accompanied by the Rev. Fathers Whittaker, O'Donnell, O'Meara, Riley and Donnelly. Thanks to the efficient training which the children had received at the hands of the Sisters and Brothers, whose indefatigable exertions to promote their social and religious culture are now bearing good fruit, they marched in the most perfect order, and formed a procession which won the unbound admiration of the hundreds of spectators who were silent spectators of the beautiful scene. The weather appeared rather threatening, but happily nothing occurred to mar the happiness of the little ones as they marched in double file into the church and took their places, as directed by their teachers. Then followed Confirmation by His Lordship Mgr. Fabre, who was attended by the Rev. Father Donnelly and the priest of the parish. The ceremony occupied about half an hour's time, during which about 187 children, boys and girls, received the sacrament.

THE IMMIGRATION QUESTION.

MEETING OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETIES LAST NIGHT INCREASED ACCOMMODATION WANTED.

An important meeting of representatives of the various national societies was held Friday evening in St. George's Home, to discuss the immigration question in all its bearings. Mr. J. K. Ward presided, and among those present were Messrs. W. D. Strand, E. Judge, E. Hollis and F. J. Chambers, delegates from the St. George's Society; W. W. Ogilvie, D. Campbell from the St. Andrew's Society; D. Barry, F. A. Quinn and W. Hawley, from the St. Patrick's Society; Messrs. Thomas, Sutton, Shinnick and Nightingale, Irish Protestant Benevolent Society; Messrs. Munroher, Von Rappard and Moll, from the German Society.

The President explained that the meeting had been called to consider the question of immigration to this country and to take measures, if possible, to prevent evils connected with it.

Mr. D. Barry, President of St. Patrick's Society, referred to the importance of the question and spoke of the desirability of having an institution like Castle Garden for the Dominion. Mr. W. W. Ogilvie, Vice-President of the St. Andrew's Society, said that so far they had never had an excess of immigrants in their Home. Such as had come had not remained long, a number had found employment in the garrisons around the city. There had been some sad cases in the Home, but all had eventually found work.

Mr. Campbell of the same society spoke in a similar strain.

Mr. Thomas, Vice-President of the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society, said that no immigrants had come to them which had not been able to provide for. They had no reason to complain either of the quantity or quality; however, they were perfectly willing to help the St. George's Society even if they had no personal complaint. What they had against the Government was that there was no room accommodations here, the sheds at the Tamarins being a disgrace to any government.

Mr. Munroher suggested that the Government should be asked to provide suitable quarters here for immigrants and to establish offices in connection under Government officials who would keep a record of the destination of each man, and that an employment registrar for the whole Dominion should be kept as well.

The chairman wanted it to be thoroughly understood that the St. George's Society wanted immigration and favored it strongly.

Mr. F. A. Quinn said that the difficulty appeared to be that the right kind of immigrants were not coming over. They came from the cities, but what was wanted here were agriculturists. Our cities were overcrowded already. The meeting, in their opinion, should let that be thoroughly understood. The speaker then went on to declare that politics had anything to do with the action of the National Societies, and moved a resolution to the effect that mechanics and clerks should not be encouraged to emigrate, and that the bringing out of men unused to agricultural labor was an injury to the country as well as to the immigrants themselves.

Mr. Judge spoke strongly against the landing of ill-clad and penniless men here in the winter, and blamed the steamship agents for the men already sent out. He wished to prevent the societies in England from assisting such men as Jones, and to ask the Government to provide proper accommodation here. Mr. Strand again detailed the circumstances that had given rise to the present discussion, and to the immigrants that had come out under Mr. Jones, which have already been fully ventilated in the press. He said that he was fully with the government in bringing out immigrants to this country provided they were of the right class. But what they wanted the government to do was to repatriate such men as Mr. Jones and Mr. Brown, and prevent them from invading our ports to come out to this country under false pretences.

Mr. Thomas remarked that Mr. Jones was not a government employee.

Mr. Strand remarked that he could find situations for any number of agricultural laborers, but the class of men that was being brought out was not needed. He considered that the government should provide suitable quarters for the immigrants at Quebec, and distribute them to different points from there. He would be always ready to support the government in bringing out a desirable class of immigrants.

The discussion was continued for some time in a similar strain, when it was finally resolved, That the Dominion government be requested to provide suitable quarters in the city of Montreal for the temporary accommodation of immigrants, and to establish in connection therewith offices under government officials whose duties it shall be to keep a Dominion employment registry and to forward the immigrants to their destinations.

A unanimous vote of thanks having, on motion of Mr. Barry, been tendered to the chairman, the meeting dispersed.

"SENTENCES OF DEATH" as Mr. Gladstone forcibly terms evictions by Irish landlords, are still cruelly rife in Ireland. The parliamentary returns for the past quarter regard the world of the sad fact. According to these documents the number of families evicted during the cold and dreary months of the new year ending on the 31st of March was 763, comprising 4,775 persons. Taken in the order of provinces Munster heads the list with 207 families, representing 1,598 souls; Connaught follows with 286 families and 1,362 persons; and Ulster and Leinster show respective totals of 219 families, representing 899 people, and 161 families, numbering 716 people. Out of the entire body of those who were driven out of their homes by the action of the landlords, 72 families were re-admitted as tenants, and 370 families were permitted to return as caretakers.

THE ASCENSION.

On Thursday following the fifth Sunday after Easter we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord. For forty days after He rose from the dead He remained with His Apostles, to teach them that He was truly risen, to explain to them the types and the figures which foretold Him in the Old Testament, and to send them forth into the world to preach, to teach, and to save the redeemed race. The solemnity of the Ascension was instituted by the Apostles on Thursday, for tradition tells us that at noon this day He went up to Heaven. The Apostles had gathered all together in the large hall, where the first Mass was said by our Lord the night before. He suffered, and He came and sat and eat with them. That upper hall is to be seen to-day in Jerusalem, and now the Turks occasionally allow the Holy Sacrifice to be celebrated within its holy walls. The Saviour led them out beyond the walls of Jerusalem. Five hundred witnesses followed along the road to Bethany, the length of a Sabbath day's journey, nearly a thousand paces, to the Mount of Olives. From thence, before the eyes of all, by His own power, He went up into Heaven, and a cloud received Him from their sight.

The writers of the early times tell us that before Our Lord ascended from the earth, He left the marks of His holy feet in the rock, as the prophet foretold. Even when Titus took and destroyed Jerusalem, the imprint of the Lord's feet remained, and over them the Empress Irene built a beautiful church. From there she wrote to her son, the Emperor Constantine: "With worthy devotion the impressions of Our Saviour's feet are honored."

In memory of the Ascension of Our Lord, they used to have a procession on Thursday, in the first days of the Church, afterwards, because the people could not always come on a week day. Pope Agapitus changed it to Sunday, when the people could all attend. There is no fast on the eve of the Ascension, because it falls within the Easter season.

The Paschal candle, which tells of Christ, the Light of the world, is lighted from the time it is blessed on Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday, the day following Easter, at the High Masses of all the Sunday feasts, as of Easter of the Easter season till Ascension Thursday, when, after the Gospel is finished, it is quenched to show that the Lord on this day is the light of all men, went up into Heaven.

The services of to-day are held in Rome, in the great Church of St. Peter. What a happy thought, to unite around the tomb of the Apostles the faithful followers of the Lord, who to day ascended into heaven, where He sits at the right hand of the Father. For many ages the Pope, with the whole college of cardinals, went to St. John Lateran to end these holy liturgies in the church built by Constantine in honor of the Saviour.

The Gospel of to-day is taken from St. Mark, and tells the history of our Blessed Lord going up into heaven in the presence of all His holy followers.

Such are a few thoughts on the feasts of our beloved Saviour, which, year by year, and generation after generation, we celebrate. Eighteen hundred years have passed, and still, by yearly ceremonies, by rites and services, by the types and figures of our Church, His life, His works and His miracles have been brought before the minds of men. Thus it will be ever after, till the day of doom, till the Angel's trumpet calls the dead to rise and come to judgment.

In all the Catholic churches in the city this important feast was celebrated in an appropriate manner, and in some of them the services were very impressive. At St. Peter's Church, High Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father Royer, assisted by the Rev. Fathers Durquier and Laporte as deacon and sub-deacon. The sermon of the day was delivered in an eloquent manner by the Rev. Father Brunet. At Vespes and Benediction this evening the Rev. Father Lecourte, O. M. I., from McKenzie River, will preach a sermon on Northwest missions.

The Gospel of to-day is taken from St. Mark, and tells the history of our Blessed Lord going up into heaven in the presence of all His holy followers.

The president of the United States' Foreign Service says that the administration of Andrew Johnson is increasing.

The Times strongly condemns the attitude of the African International Association in its relations toward France.

General Butler has formally requested the nomination for the presidency tendered him by the anti-slavery party.

It is feared the departure of Clifford Laty from Paris will have the effect of the government relaxing its economy.

An Edinburgh dispatch says a fire has occurred in a coal pit at Portobello, near Edinburgh, and 12 men have been suffocated.

Some of the New York banks have protest against the large amount of loan certificates granted by the Cleve-Tar Home.

The U. S. Presbyterian Church Synod has adopted a resolution advising ministers to preach on the subject of temperance.

The U. S. Presbyterian Church Synod has rejected overtures looking to union with the northern branch of the denomination.

It has been decided in court that the trustees are not responsible for damages in connection with the Brooklyn bridge calamity.

The Government are considering the propriety of allowing a triumphal entry into Paris on July 14th of the French Republic.

The man Osborne who shot his son-in-law named French at East Templeton a few days ago, is still at large and is staying in the vicinity.

Here, Mr. Carter in answer to a question in Toronto, said the government would not grant money to pay the expenses of visiting regiments during the semi-centennial.

On and after June 1st money orders will be issued in Canada, payable in Swindon, at the rate of ten cents for sums not exceeding \$10, twenty cents for sums not exceeding \$20, and so on up to \$50.

La Paris says French artists will revenge the refusal of the U. S. Congress to reduce the duty on works of art. They will, they say, put on exhibition the works of American artists.

The Sunderland shipowners have written to Mr. Gladstone indicating the injurious effect produced by the speech of Joseph Chamberlain, President of the Board of Trade, in support of the shipping bill which he introduced.

The president of the African International Association says that Captain Stephens, an Englishman who, it was stated, was commissioned to recruit 2,000 negroes for service in the Congo country, is connected with the association in any manner whatever.

Samples of silver ore from the Rabbit Mountain mine have been received at the Canadian Pacific Railways' commissioners' office, Winnipeg. The largest specimen contains according to the assay, \$10 worth of silver, and would yield \$1,000 per ton.

There are three gigantic mounds now on the Newfoundland coast, one on Bay St. John's, about five miles in circuit, one seven miles long, and a third at White Bay, ascertained by survey to be over nine miles in length.

In consequence of the adoption of the favored nation clause, commercial negotiations between the powers have reached a deadlock. Russia and England especially insist that the clause shall be inserted in the convention.

MURRAY & LAMMAN'S FLORIDA WATER.

We earnestly urge every purchaser to ask for that which is prepared by Messrs. Murray & Lamp, New York, who are the sole proprietors of the true perfume. All other so-called Florida Waters are only ordinary imitations.

Mr. Bradlaugh has written to Mr. Gladstone, protesting against the excessive amounts allowed in the commutation of the pensions to the heirs of the Duke of Wellington and William Penn, and requesting permission to argue the matter before the lords of the treasury, as his mouth was gagged in Parliament.

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC NEWS.

Floods are doing much damage in Spain. Milne's woodlands at Aberdeen have been buried; loss £50,000.

The City Clerk's office at St. Louis has been robbed of \$14,000.

The Southwestern States cattle trade outlook is reported to be