

present enjoying the benefits of proper treatment in Asylums. We are certain the people of Canada need only to be convinced of the existing shamefully insufficient accommodation to demand from the Legislature the appropriation of a sum necessary to erect, at least, two good Hospitals for the insane. Public attention once fully roused to the disgraceful state in which things are, the remedy will not long be forthcoming.

According to the Census Report there are now in Upper Canada 1069 persons of unsound mind; in Lower Canada there are 1733, making a total for the Province of 2802. Of these, 1410 are males—1392 females. The whole population, according to the same Report, is 1,842,103; the eastern section containing 880,261; the western, 951,742. The proportion of lunatics to the entire population will therefore be 1 to 657. This is a ratio greater than obtains in most countries. In England, France, United States, Belgium and Prussia, the ratio is 1 to 1000. In Scotland and Norway, however, the ratio is greater. In the former it is 1 to 573; in the latter, 1 to 551. It would appear that the temperature of a climate has an influence over the mental health of individuals—cold climates being more favorable to the development of insanity than either warm or temperate climates. Sunny Italy has but 1 lunatic to 4,787 persons of sound mind; temperate England and France have 1 to 1000; but cold Norway, Scotland and Canada have 1 to about 600. A comparison of the prevalence of insanity in the two sections of the Province favors this opinion. In Upper Canada the climate is more equable throughout the year, and is much more temperate during the winter months than in Lower Canada. In the former the numbers of insane and entire population are respectively 1,069 and 951,742, the ratio being as 1 to 891; in the latter the numbers are 1733 and 880,261, the proportion being as 1 to 508. Here is a disparity not easily to be accounted for. A greater number of the population being engaged in agricultural pursuits—the quiet, retired habits of the French Canadian *habitant*, and the intense cold of the long winters, are probably the reasons why the difference is so great between Upper and Lower Canada.

Having placed these statistics before our readers, we now proceed to inform them of the provision which the public-spirited and philanthropic Legislature of Canada has made for her 2802 lunatics. We blush for our country as we send forth these statements to the world. There is the Provincial Lunatic Asylum at Toronto, built for the reception of 250 patients, although now containing nearly 400; and the Beauport Asylum at Quebec, capable of accommodating about 150 patients; accommodation being provided by Canada for only 400 of her 2802 insane population. This is surely an evil of no ordinary magnitude. Notwithstanding that these facts must be known to those in authority, Par-