

respectable house of entertainment; whilst, at their future capital, Ottawa, the only hotel at present in that city would be a disgrace to many of our country towns. If, then, these Canadians, unaccustomed as they are to first class houses, have grounds of complaint against those of Halifax, these latter must surely be uncomfortable indeed. It is now some years since a want like that now felt led to the erection of the Halifax Hotel, the crowded state of which amply proves the wisdom of the move. During these years, however, the passenger traffic through the city has considerably increased, not to mention the large number of persons who would willingly make Halifax a temporary residence, were a good hotel open for their reception. In this matter we are sadly behind our Yankee neighbours. Our principal hotel has all the disadvantages, and so far as we can see, none of the advantages of the American system.—There is the absence of private sitting rooms, and no good public ones.—The absence of private meals, and public ones only to be obtained at fixed hours.—The noise and turmoil of an American bar, with none of its luxuries and conveniences, and added to all this, a total want of proper attendance. We are aware that all this is not the fault of the enterprising proprietor. The house itself built in a hurried manner, to suit the exigencies of the moment requires many and large additions, which the thriving business of the time will hardly allow to be entered upon at present; but we cannot help thinking that much might be done towards the improvement of its interior arrangements and for the private comfort of its numerous guests. Supposing, however, all to be done that is possible to this house, we must not forget that numbers are daily refused admission, and to strike at the root of the evil we want a new hotel.

It may be suggested that it were difficult to find an individual willing to embark, single handed, upon so large a venture. Possibly so, but what is difficult for an individual is easily achieved by a company, and we often wonder that some design of this kind has not yet been set on foot in Halifax, especially as such schemes have been almost always attended by success. The comforts of single strangers visiting the city have been largely provided for by the erection of the Club House, and it now only remains to establish a first class Family Hotel for the accommodation of those who arrive here accompanied by their wives and children.

We can only hope that some of our leading capitalists and citizens will bestir themselves in the matter.

HALIFAX BIRTHS.

Men possessing the least possible amount of influence while on earth, emanating from death sufficient friendship to have their demise proclaimed to the general public. Many persons of whose earthly existence no one seems to care in the slightest degree, are publicly bewailed after death in at least three lines of small print. Those who ignore the living, not unfrequently reverence the dead, and scarce a pauper quits this life without some obituary notice. A man may be an acknowledged burden in the parish for years, without friends, without home, and without money, but no sooner has such a one shuffled off this mortal coil, than his demise is proclaimed side by side with that of, it may be, some national benefactor. This homage to death is general throughout the barbarous, as throughout the civilized world. It is well that it should be so, but it is not our present intention to expatiate upon the merits of a system so generally adopted in all countries—it is enough for our purpose, that deaths are almost invariably notified to the general public. But the paragraphs relating to deaths, are, as a rule, far shorter than those relating to marriages, inasmuch as the bare mention of a death, carries with it something so unspcakably solemn, that any attempt at elaboration would seem superfluous, if not absolutely offensive. To note the day of a man's death, is tantamount to noting for the information of his acquaintances, a catastrophe in itself, complete. The simple statement—*he is dead*—conveys a truth, the magnitude of which language cannot enhance. But with marriages the case is different. It is of the utmost importance to a bride's friends that the leading details of a marriage should be set forth at full length. In ordinary life, it is all important that the *style of a wedding* should be made known to every stray acquaintance. When a girl marries, it is deemed imperative that her remotest acquaintances should know that three or four priests assisted at her wedding, and that the man who has married her is one of whom her whole connection must necessarily be proud. To be married in a fashionable church is, in itself, something, wherewith to twit less fortunate relatives, and if local position justifies a catalogue of the bridesmaids, and a description of their toilettes, the triumph of a bride may be deemed complete. This is but human nature. For one man that cares to learn that a friend died on some distant shore, in peace and quietness with all mankind, there are twenty girls anxious to learn the wedding par-

ticulars of one whom they deemed in all respects inferior to themselves. When a man reads a death announcement, he looks sad, and says little; but when a knot of women read of a girl's marriage, they have plenty to say in commemoration of the man who has been ejected into an unworthy alliance. In such a case, the newly made bride fares badly at the hands of her guardian associates, and not a few intimate that they might have made such a match long ago, had they stooped to the pitiful artifices of one whom they had always held in contempt. However, setting aside the foibles of either sex, there can be no doubt that both deaths and marriages are invested with a fair amount of interest, greater or less, in proportion to the temper of individuals. But there is yet another incident,—common enough in most communities,—to which Halifaxians, and indeed Americans in general,—seem to attach but slight importance. From a careful perusal of the Halifax papers, it would appear that in this city are born scarce any children, other than those of English parentage. This seems very extraordinary, if we take into consideration the many insertions of deaths and marriages which meet our eye from day to day. We have no reason to suppose that Nova Scotians are becoming extinct—on the contrary, we are justified in assuming them to be on the increase,—but we very rarely see the fact made public.

It would seem that the publication of births is not fashionable in Halifax. Why is this? In what particular do we differ from Europeans, that we should shrink from making known a domestic incident, commonly regarded in the light of a blessing? If it be important that marriages should be publicly avowed, it is doubly important that births should have publicity. In peculiar cases, a birth is an event far more interesting to distant relatives than a marriage, inasmuch as it may in a great measure alter or modify the future of one or more individuals. A man possessed of much property may be left a childless widower at thirty, and may with most perfect honesty give out that his affections are buried in the grave of his deceased wife. Should he remain unmarried fifteen years later, the chances are, that some near relative or relatives will be educated as his heirs, and their occupation or profession will probably be guided in accordance with this belief. Meanwhile, our married man tires of celibacy, and taking unto himself a second wife, causes much anxiety to the parents and guardians of those hitherto nurtured as his presumptive heirs. But the latter, although disquieted, are not utterly cast down. The second wife's jointure is, it may be, but a small slice off the coveted fortune, and so long as no children come in the way, all must eventually go well. But what anxiety is in store for the heirs presumptive! Their future plans, their choice of a profession, their probable chance of a really advantageous marriage, these, and fifty other considerations of a like nature, hinge each and all upon the chance of a birth resulting from a second marriage. To people thus circumstanced, the whole range of modern literature contains nothing half so interesting as that newspaper corner wherein a line of small print may upset their whole theory of life. But it may be urged, that the non-publication of a birth would in such a case, have a directly mortal tendency, inasmuch as the final overthrow of hopes based upon a breach of the tenth commandment would be stunning and complete. But, on the other hand, it would be more charitable to quench the hopes of expectant heirs as soon as possible, in order that they might the sooner arm themselves for a life of self-dependence. The mere fact of property being, by the laws of the Province, equally divided among children, can hardly be quoted as an argument against the importance of individual births, except in cases where the number of children already born has reduced individual patrimony to something beneath consideration. Some little excuse may be found for the non-publication of births by parents who, having married entirely for love, regard children as a misfortune. There can, it may be argued, be no advantage in blazoning forth the fact that a probable pauper has been brought into the world. This reasoning, although not altogether unsound, is when viewed practically, decidedly inexpedient, inasmuch as those who withhold their sympathy from a selfish improvident marriage may be moved to pity by the innocent result of the alliance, and prevailed upon to offer tangible proof of forgiveness to the romantic though embarrassed love-birds. To poor people, again, the charge of publishing a birth may be a consideration, but, so far as we can learn, the Halifax papers charge nothing for such announcements. What then is the reason that we publish marriages and deaths and let a birth occur unnoticed? We cannot answer the question upon any logical grounds, and we are loath to suppose ourselves infected with that "over-ness," and false delicacy which in the neighboring States has long been quoted as ridiculous and contemptible.

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