

THE SCIENCE OF OLD AGE.

Some Facts and Figures Relating to the Duration of Life, Animal and Vegetable.

We propose in this paper to consider generally the question of old age and longevity. The whole journey of life is best divided into three stages: the period of ascent or youth (1-25); that of level ground or maturity (25-50); and that of descent or decline (50-75). Old age may set in anywhere along the last stage.

It must not, however, be supposed that the last stage necessarily ends at 75; for 50 years especially, in many cases, the period of old age has not begun until 30 years are past, life being prolonged over the century; while, on the other hand, all the signs of old age have been seen before 20 years have been reached.

Out of every 1,000 people nearly 100 reach 75, 38 reach 85, and two reach 95. The number of persons in proportion to the whole population that reach 70 in Norway is one-third, in England nearly one-fifth, in France one-eighth, and in Ireland one-eleventh. As far as can be calculated, the average length of life which is computed in the seventeenth century to average only 18 years, in the eighteenth increased to 20, and in the nineteenth to 36. Men used to be considered old when they passed 50.

VEGETABLE AND ANIMAL LONGEVITY.

It is interesting to compare the age of man with that of other parts of the organic kingdom. In the vegetable world it is enormously exceeded. Amongst trees, the elm reaches an age of 355 years; the ivy 450; the chestnut 600; the olive 700; the cedar 800; the oak 1,500; the yew 2,800; while Humboldt computed the age of a baobab tree (a species of banyan) to be 5,700 years!

Amongst fish, Doctor Richardson finds no deaths from old age, and does not believe they have any term to their lives, save as they fall a prey to one another. Carp and other fish that have been isolated and watched are still living at enormous ages. As long as they live they increase in size. Amongst animals we have an elephant of the reputed age of 1,007 years.

Coming to men, we find many remarkable instances of longevity. The long lists given by the old writers of very aged people (including one of over 300 years of age) have been proved to be most unreliable. Many cases, however, are beyond suspicion, and such unimpeachable centenarians as Sir Moses Montefiore silence all skeptics who doubt that human life can attain to three figures. Old Parr still remains as one of the most wonderful of these veterans. He was a poor farm-servant, and, like Henry Jenkins (who was supposed to be 160 years old at death), led a hard and laborious life in a country village on scanty fare. At 120, Parr married a widow for his second wife, and at 130 could thresh corn. He died at 152, but not of old age.

CLIMATE AND HABITS.

Longevity appears to depend to a certain extent on country and climate. While a cold, bracing climate like Norway gives a very high general average of age, the climate of Western Italy seems most favorable to very advanced life. As early as A. D. 76 we find that in this district, in the emperor's census, 54 were returned at 100, 57 at 110, 2 at 125, 4 at 130, and 3 at 140. In Ireland, though the general average is low, we get many instances of centenarians. A country life is conducive to old age; while it is extremely rare to find persons at ninety years and upward who have led sedentary town lives. Longevity cannot be said, however, to be dependent on any condition or vocation, but is found in the most opposed circumstances.

St. Anthony, who died at 105, ate a few ounces of bread soaked in water, never washed or changed his garments, and lived always alone in a desert. M. Chevreul, the great French chemist, at nearly the same age, ate for breakfast two eggs, some chicken-pasty, and had a pint of coffee daily; for dinner, tapioca soup with grated cheese, a cutlet, a bunch of grapes, cheese, and three glasses of water. No fish and no wine. He was scrupulously clean, and lived in or near Paris.

Some people survive in spite of their habits. One old man of 97 of all his life drank quantities of neat gin, and smoked the strongest and rankest tobacco; while the Rev. W. Davis, who died in 1790 at 104, and who ought to have known better, for the last 35 years of his life never took exercise, and began the day on hot buttered rolls, and ended it with a supper of hot-roast meat, with plenty of wine.

Spinners will be pleased to know that single women live as long as married.

CHARACTERISTICS OF SEX.

Sex influences old age. In 1872, out of 89 dying at, or over 100, only 10 were males. This is due partly to less exposure to injuries, and partly to a greater tenacity of life. Girls die more slowly than boys; and though more boys than girls are born each year, this difference maintains the balance. We may notice one or two other points of comparison between the sexes, as observed in some hundreds of recorded cases lately collected. The average height of an old man over 80 is 5 feet 6 inches; of an old woman, 5 feet 3 inches; the pulse rate in the man is 73, in the woman 78; the breath rate in the man 18, in the woman 22. The average number of teeth in the men is 6, in the women 3, while a fourth of the men and half the women had none at all.

DURATION OF LIFE.

It is believed that there are traces in the animal kingdom of a law that fixes the extreme duration of life at five times that of growth. This latter period in man is about 21 years; hence the full span of a perfectly healthy man's life should range from 100 to 105 years. As, however, none are born perfectly free from taint, the expectation of life varies greatly. Every human being starts on his life's journey with a certain life force—or, in other words, like a clock, he is constructed to run a certain time under given conditions.

In 600 cases of people over 80, most came from long-lived families, enjoyed

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good homes, good appetites and good digestions, were moderate or small eaters, consumed little alcohol or medicine, were good sleepers, and showed at death no trace of gout or rheumatic gout. Nevertheless, in 82 cases the near relatives were consumptive.

OBITUARY.

An Ex-Alderman's Sudden Death.

EX-ALD. LAURENT died very suddenly on Friday. His death was unlooked for. He was in the act of entering his house when he was stricken down with an attack of apoplexy, which proved fatal. Medical aid was summoned, but it proved to be unavailing, as he never spoke again. He leaves a wife and six children to mourn his untimely and sad death. One of his daughters is married to Dr. Germain, of St. Vincent de Paul, a brother to Ald. Germain. The other daughter is married to Mr. Lemire, notary, of this city. The deceased for several years represented St. Louis Ward in the City Council. He entered the Council in 1877, and was appointed Chairman of the Road Committee on August 19, 1878, in place of Ald. Stephens, who resigned that position. He occupied the chair for eleven consecutive years, and until he was defeated by Ald. Savigne in 1889. He served very often as a commissioner for the city in expropriation matters, and his death will necessitate the appointment of another witness for the widening of Bleury street.

James Carrel, proprietor and editor of the *Quebec Daily Telegraph* and *Weekly Budget*, died suddenly on Sunday night at his residence, Maple avenue. He had been suffering from heart disease brought on by inflammatory rheumatism and his medical advisers had warned him not to take any part in politics as the slightest excitement might prove fatal, but, unfortunately for himself, his natural impetuosity and his fear of being suspected of shirking the struggle led him to disregard the warning and be plunged into the thick of the fray. The excitement proved too much for him and resulted in his death. He was apparently in his usual health to-day and had gone out walking in the afternoon. In the evening, feeling unable to go to sleep, he asked for a book to read, and while his son went to get one Mr. Carrel sank back in his chair in a semi-unconscious state. A doctor was summoned, but on arrival found that life was extinct. Mr. Carrel was 47 years of age and apparently in the prime of life, and the news of his death caused a great shock to his friends. He was extremely popular and generous to the extreme. He was always ready to share his last dollar with anyone in want and in his advocacy of the cause of the working classes and cared little what injury he would do his own interests so long as he helped those who required his assistance. Few men in Quebec had more friends and fewer enemies, and his loss will be regretted by all classes. Mr. Carrel served his time as a printer on the *Quebec Mercury*, of which he became foreman at the age of 21. He afterwards became a broker, and twenty years ago started the *Weekly Budget* and *Daily Telegraph*, the first daily one-cent paper in Quebec.

Mr. Ubald Prieur, for many years attached to the staffs of *Le Monde*, *La Presse* and *L'Etendard*, died suddenly on Thursday in St. Albert, N.W.T., where he was Crown Attorney and registrar. He was 31 years old, was the son of F. X. Prieur, one of the patriots of 1837, and leaves a young widow, having married a year ago Marie, daughter of Dr. Duchesneau, formerly warden of St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary.

The Late Canon Dunphy.

Widespread regret has been felt through out the diocese of Ossory at the death of the Very Rev. Canon Dunphy, which took place at the Parochial House, Mooncoin, on February 5th. He was born in the parish of Aghaboe sixty-two years ago, and belonged to a family which has given four priests to the Church. One of them was the late Canon John Dunphy, P.P., Ballycallan. The other two survive, and are at present parish priests in the diocese of Dublin. Another brother died while an ecclesiastical student at Maynooth; and his only sister died at Harold's Cross, Dublin, the saintly death of a devoted nun. Canon Dunphy's first mission was St. John's, Kilkenny, to which he was appointed soon after his ordination in '56, and where he remained eleven years. He worked as curate in the parishes of Conahy and Muckalee. In '75 he was sent as Administrator to Slieveone. Five years later Father Dunphy was appointed to the pastoral charge of Castle town, Queen's County, and made a member of the Diocesan Chapter by Doctor, now Cardinal Moran. Soon after the advent to that diocese of the present venerated bishop, Canon Dunphy was translated to the important parish of Mooncoin, and chosen one of the Bishop's Council. He rebuilt the chapel of Ballyfoyle, which was blown down by a storm during his time there, erected the curate's residence attached to it, and the convent and schools at Ferrybank. He spent at least twelve hundred pounds in renovating and beautifying the Parochial Church of Castle-

town. The teaching order, known as the Brothers of the Blessed de la Salle, were introduced by him for the first time into Ireland. They have now their flourishing novitiate there, with its spacious buildings, and are doing noble work in various parts of the country. Since he took possession of the parish of Mooncoin six years ago he built four schools, enlarged those in charge of the nuns there, erected five teachers' residences, and had final arrangements made for the building of another when he was prostrated by illness a few months ago. His death was truly edifying, peaceful and happy. The Office and High Mass for the repose of his soul were celebrated on Saturday, in the parish church, Mooncoin, the Most Rev. Dr. Browning, Bishop of Ossory, presiding. The Most Rev. Dr. Egan, Bishop of Waterford, and more than seventy priests were also present, including Very Rev. J. Dunphy, P.P., Arklow, and Rev. W. Dunphy, P.P., Naul, brother of deceased.

Huntingdon Village.

Dr. Cameron appeared before the Huntingdon council at its last meeting regarding the unsanitary condition of the village. For some time he had kept careful statistics of the death rate and found that the mortality was greater, according to the population, than that of Montreal or even Chicago. He thought this was largely due to the filthy condition of the yards and outhouses, the sewage from which found its way into the river and wells. He also considered that interments should be prohibited in the graveyards in the populated parts of the village. He urged upon the council the necessity of their doing all in their power to have the village put in a good sanitary state before spring. After some discussion the secretary was instructed to have a by-law prepared, dealing with interments in the settled parts of the village, and to urge upon the board of health the necessity of having all yards and outhouses cleaned and put in proper order.

Rivalry.

LONDON, March 6.—Next week Mr. Parnell will issue a manifesto to American Irishmen. He will address meetings in Ireland on several succeeding Sundays. Sir John Pope Hennessy has written letters to priests and others in Ireland in which he claims to outbid Mr. Parnell in the extent of the Home Rule measure which he desires. He says that he demands control of everything, including the customs and fiscal systems, without which, he adds, the development of Ireland's resources would be hindered.

The Delegates to America.

LONDON, March 6.—Parnell's delegates to America will leave Sunday. They are greatly heartened by cable assurances of the warm and widespread support of their American compatriots. The first English friends of the McCarthys are beginning to despair of their ability to make headway against the vigor and virile activity of the Parnellites.

An Honorable City.

LIMERICK, March 6.—At the opening of the Limerick assizes to-day the judges announced that they were rejoiced that the condition of affairs in the city and county had improved, and that boycotting and the plan of campaign had vanished.

A Serious Threat.

BELFAST, March 5.—The Right Rev. William Reeves, D.D., Bishop of the united dioceses of Down and Connor and Dromore, who issued a letter amounting practically to an excommunication of the Catholics who support Mr. Parnell, which letter has caused considerable excitement in this city and elsewhere, says during the course of that epistle:—Those men who are supporting Mr. Parnell have become the propagators of public scandal, and have, by their own acts, placed themselves in company with those to whom it is unlawful for priests to administer the Sacrament.

Parnell's Speech.

LONDON, March 5.—Parnell addressed his London supporters last evening at Clerkenwell. He was received with prolonged cheering. There were cries for Davitt, but the call was hooped. A resolution was adopted expressing confidence in Parnell who said the English would ultimately see that they must allow the Irish to manage their own affairs. The question of leadership was for the Irish to decide. He had the deepest sympathy with the aspirations of English working-men, and he regretted Mr. Morley's attitude on the labor question, but though the Liberal leaders declined to take their place at the head of the labor movement it was not for the leader of the Irish to interfere in British questions. He enlarged upon the shortcomings of the Gladstonians in this respect, and expatiated on his own ideas of what the new Parliament could do for the workingmen. For himself and his colleagues he could promise to second every attempt on the part of the laboring classes to better their condition.

Some Noteworthy Prisoners.

NEW YORK, March 6.—Coroner Levy this morning issued warrants for the arrest of five of the railroad officers alleged by his jury to be responsible for the Harlem tunnel disaster. Those named in the warrants were Channecy M. Depew, G. N. Miller, Wilson G. Hunt, Joseph Park and William Rockefeller. The five warrants were given Detective McCluskey, who took them to Inspector Byrnes, who detailed men to serve them this afternoon. Mr. Depew appeared at the coroner's office at 4:20 this afternoon and furnished the bond of Cornelius Vanderbilt for \$25,000. Mr. Park surrendered himself at 3 o'clock, and H. J. Park, his son, went on his bond for \$25,000. President Clark surrendered soon after Mr. Park. He also gave a bond in \$25,000. The warrants for Messrs. Miller and Hunt have not been served owing to their advanced age. The coroner said he would wait until Monday night in their cases. Wm. Rockefeller did not appear, but is expected to get it in the morning. To-night the coroner signed warrants for the arrest of the other directors, and they will be issued as quickly as possible. Operators McManus and Breen were discharged by the coroner, and Engineer Fowler is under \$10,000 bail.

Argentina's Financial Difficulties.

BUENOS AYRES, March 6.—The Argentine Government issued a decree yesterday which suspends business on the Bourse, in the custom house and in the banks to-day and to-morrow. The decree was issued in view of the disturbed state of trade, the financial anxiety prevailing, and the general feeling of panic which exists in all circles. The decree announces that the days mentioned are to be observed as holidays, but the real reason for the suspension of business is to try to save the Provincial bank from financial disaster. A syndicate composed of 120 merchants has arranged a plan by which they will lend the Argentine Government \$20,000,000. Consequently the Government has decided that no fresh issue of paper money will be made, and the tax of 2 per cent recently levied on all deposits in private banks will be abolished.

A Submarine Tunnel.

The different schemes for tunnelling the Irish channel have lately been under consideration. The routes proposed are from Island Magee to the Wigtonshire coast; from Whitehead to Portpatrick, and the Cantyre route. From Donaghadee to Portpatrick has been warmly advocated, but is practically impossible, owing to the channel on the Scotch side being upwards of 900 feet in depth. A submerged tubular bridge is the latest idea, but the enormous expense, £5,250,000, would be the trouble with it. The proposal is to have the tunnel submerged about sixty feet below the surface. The trains would be run by electricity or by compressed air.

Fiscal Union.

LONDON, March 7.—The victory of Sir John Macdonald, in the Canadian elections has given a decided impetus to the Imperial fiscal unity movement, and its advocates are using every means in their power to bring the question prominently before the public. Mr. Howard Vincent, M. P. for Sheffield, who may be looked upon as the chief promoter of fiscal unity in England, as Secretary of the new United Empire Trade League, will on Friday, March 27, move in the House of Commons for the appointment of a Royal Commission to enquire whether the Empire can be brought into closer commercial union without materially raising the price of food and raw materials in the United Kingdom and without depriving each country represented of the powers to regulate its own tariff. The motion has the support of the London branch of the Imperial Federation League, and it is thought that it will be well received in the House of Commons. It is hoped that the Government will grant the commission.

COMMERCIAL.

Grain.

There is a fair business moving in grain in car lots, the bulk of which is in grain which are very firm at 52c@54c for Manitoba and 54c@55c for Upper Canada, sales of mixed being reported at 53c to-day. Corn would cost about 77c laid down here from Chicago, but local holders are offering what they have in store here at 72c@75. We quote: No. 1 hard Manitoba, \$0.00; No. 2 do, \$1.04@1.06; No. 3 do, \$0.94@88c; No. 2 Northern, 98c@1.00; feed do, 62c; peas, 80c per 60 pounds in store; Manitoba oats, 52c@54c; Upper Canada do, 54c@55c per 34 pounds; corn, 72c@73c, duty paid; feed barley, 62c@64c; good maiting do, 60c@67c; rye, 68c@70c.

Flour.

The flour market continues to rule firm. There is a fairly steady local demand, but business on the whole is quiet. Patent spring, \$5.30@5.50; patent winter, \$5.00@5.00; straight roller, \$4.80@4.90; extra, \$4.10@4.35; super-fine, \$3.75@4.10; fine, \$2.25@3.50; city strong bakers', \$5.00@5.00; strong bakers', \$5.00@5.00; superfine bags—\$1.75@1.90; extra bags, \$1.90@2.00; fine bags, \$1.50@1.60; Oatmeal, standard, per bag, \$2.25@2.00; Oatmeal, granulated, \$2.50@2.00; Oatmeal rolled, \$2.75@3.00.

Butter.

The butter market rules quiet, but has a better tendency all round. Finest butter is now reduced very low, and there are indications that the better descriptions of under grades may be called in on its place. Finest creamery, 23c@24c; fine creamery, 21c@22c; choice dairy, 21c@22c; Morrisburg and Brockville, 16c@17c; Western dairy, 14c@15c; old butter, 6c@8c.

Cheese.

The cheese market presents nothing very interesting, but there has become business in summer makes at 10c or thereabouts recently, and they also like finest are well reduced now. Finest late makes 10c@10c; fine stock, 10c@10c; medium grades, 9c@9c; cable, 53c, 6d.

Provisions.

There is little change to note in the local provision market. Business continues quiet and prices steady, as follows:—

Canadian short cut per brl., \$15.00@15.50; mess pork, western, per brl., \$14.50@15.00; short cut western, per brl., \$15.50@16.00; hams, city cured, per lb., 10c@11c; hams, canvased, per lb., 10c@11c; lard, Canadian, in pairs, 8c@8c; bacon, per lb., 9c@10c; lard, com. refined, per lb., 7c@7c.

Eggs.

The demand is good and increasing, the market varying from 10c@20c.

Dressed Hogs.

We quote car lots nominal at \$5.55@5.80. There is a fair demand for small lots at \$6.10@6.25 per cwt., choice fresh arrivals commanding the outside.

We often hear of a person who has command of many languages, but it is seldom that one is master of his own tongue.

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Carter's Little Liver Pills are very small and very easy to take. One or two pills make a dose. They are strictly vegetable and do not grip or purge, but by their gentle action please all who use them. In vials at 25 cents; five for \$1. Sold everywhere, or sent by mail. CARTER MEDICINE CO., New York.

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This remedy has been prepared by the Reverend Pastor König, of Fort Wayne, Ind., for the past ten years, and is now prepared under his direction by the

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This reversible Material is warranted to wear well.

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With every Tweed or Cloth Suit or Overcoat, one Harmless Pistol with Target complete for the game will be given free of charge, or the value of the Toy deducted from the bill.