

adopted. But it is not alone in a people so degraded as the American Indians that practices such as I have described prevail. In a people boasting of their civilization, and looking upon the exterior world as made up of barbarians, (the Chinese) child murder is common, human life is disregarded, and as a natural corollary the state of the population wretched in the extreme. Let any one attentively consider the condition of the people of Cairo, as described by Dr. Mead, in 1720, and the wonder will be, not that plague and pestilence with their train of death and misery should there abound, but rather that human life should be at all capable of existing under such conditions as these people surround themselves with; and in other parts of the world which I myself have seen like conditions obtain. I shall never forget the aspect presented by Varna, when the British army returned to that seaport to embark for the Crimea. Miles distant a horrid odour greeted the nostrils, the nearer and nearer we approached the town, the more thickly was the road polluted with the carcasses of animals, left to rot where they had perished, and finally as we marched round the walls of the place to reach the shipping, there lay directly in our path the skins and entrails of hundreds, nay of thousands of animals, which had been slaughtered to supply the army with food, decaying under a burning sun, and the miasma from which, when added to the exhalations emanating from the marshes in that pestilential locality, were sufficient to originate a tribe of zymotic diseases. The state of the town may be adduced as an example of the degraded and sickly condition of the inhabitants. The streets were narrow, unpaved, and full of holes, filled with rank and decomposing fluid, and solid organic material; the houses mostly of wood, rickety, and swarming with vermin; the inhabitants dirty, ill-clad, and sickly looking. These facts having their origin in the sanitary state of a people, show how ill-suited was the Turkish race to uphold that celebrity it so rapidly and so violently attained; and, how if those elements necessary for human progression do not innately belong to a people, their rapid culmination will just as certainly be followed by rapid decay. The statistics furnished from the Registrar General's Office place it beyond doubt, that England at the present time is the most healthy country in the world, and this notwithstanding the vast number of fatal cases arising from zymotic disease, (or diseases depending for their origin on a poison capable of removal) and amounting to 140,000 per annum. (The return for 1857 is here alluded to.) Yet if we look back for a brief period into her history, we shall find that it was only during the 18th century that she became exempt from these terrible and fatal pestilential visitations, at present almost wholly confined to the northern and south eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea; and that previous to this period, England as regards sanitary measures was far behind other nations in Europe, more especially Holland, the low-lying position of which relatively to the level of the sea, early induced attention to matters of this nature.

It was only however when statistics were brought to bear upon the relations of disease and death to population, and that the causes of death began to receive attention, that the world became fully aware how vast was the loss of human life arising from causes under the control of mankind, and capable of entire removal or great amelioration. The further study of this subject led us to look to