

THE
SANITARY JOURNAL.
DEVOTED TO
PUBLIC HEALTH.

Vol. II.]

DECEMBER, 1876.

[No. 12.]

Original Communications.

EDUCATION OF OUR GIRLS.

To the Editor of the SANITARY JOURNAL.

SIR :—The writer not long ago, sitting in a railway car in the company of a Toronto clergyman. Among the various topics of conversation, were the subject of temperance, and the status of the average Canadian girl of the present day. We discussed the evils of intemperance, and the various remedies which have been tried and proposed, and had come to the conclusion that it remained an unsolved problem what means could be adopted to reach the root of the evil—what cure could be employed to destroy this all pervading and deep penetrating cancer which is so malignantly eating and disfiguring the social structure of our country, an evil which consumes vital forces which might be used for noble and beneficent purposes. It was after this that the writer was somewhat startled to hear his companion, with much earnestness, ask the question :—What can be done to save our young women? He expressed his belief that in another generation, if things go on the way they are doing, we shall have no women for mothers. According to his belief Canadian girls are rapidly deteriorating mentally and physically, are rapidly becoming unfit for the duties of life—for usefulness at home or abroad, and that from infirmity or design she failed to accomplish the purposes of her sex. Now while we do not believe that the evil is so great as this reverend gentleman thinks; it is sufficiently so to demand prompt and earnest attention. It is stated on competent authority that the old families who settled the first thirteen states of the American Union are rapidly becoming extinct, that in a few generations