

pond and swamp on a property of his that may serve as a valuable suggestion to other people. In the lowest place in the pond he had a hole drilled down in the rock the same as for an artesian well, and at fifty feet below the surface the drill reached a cavity in which it fell at once for several feet. The water began at once to run down this hole, and continued to do so until it was all drained off. By inserting proper pipes, with suitable appliances, it is thought that a permanent drain has been provided. The total cost of this arrangement was less than a hundred dollars, and an amount of land and compost soil was reclaimed worth many times the amount. Not far from the same place there is an artesian well, some hundreds of feet deep, throwing constantly up a beautiful supply of excellent water. The experiment would be well worth trying in other localities, though it may not always prove successful.

The efforts of science towards sanitary reform during the past few years have been crowned with such success as to prove a great blessing to mankind. It is said that in England the average age of the people among males is two years longer than it was forty years ago, and among females it is greater still—three and a half years. Many of the diseases once claiming thousands of victims are now comparatively harmless. People are also enjoying life better, because of better health. Surely facts like these ought to encourage those engaged in the great and good work of sanitary reform. The great work and good work of science should be to discover preventives against disease and pain rather than the cure of them when they once come.

The uses to which paper is applied become more and more numerous every year. Paper collars and paper car wheels are now both articles of daily use, and so are paper napkins and paper houses. In France a paper chimney, over forty feet high has just been erected. Probably no material is better adapted to the purpose. Some one is also proposing to build cannon and other large infantry implements of destruction from paper. The supply, fortunately, continues to increase fully as fast as the demand.

The Maritime cities and provinces of the Dominion are not favoured with any such rapid growth of population and wealth as those more immediately surrounding us. The city of St. John, New Brunswick, celebrates its hundredth year about the time that Toronto celebrates its fiftieth, and yet it cannot make boast of much more than one fourth of our population. St. John received a Royal charter as a city May 18th, just one hundred years ago and had at the taking of the last census a population of 26,128; Toronto was chartered as a city in March 1834 and now numbers considerably over one hundred thousand. Halifax was settled as early as St. John, and the census gives it a population of 36,102. One reason, probably, why St. John is not now as populous as Halifax is because of the disastrous fire some years ago. When the census of 1871 was taken St. John numbered 28,805 and Halifax 29,582. It

will be seen by the above figures that the two cities were nearly equally populous at that time, and that the former has lost its numbers since while the latter has increased considerably. Quebec is also one of our oldest cities but its growth is also slow, the population not being much more than half as large as our own. According to the census of 1881 the population of Quebec was then 62,447, while in 1871 it was put down at 69,699.

Canada derives not a little of her wealth from her fisheries. Those along the sea coasts of the maritime Provinces are the most valuable and productive. According to a recent official report made at Ottawa, the value of the fishery catch last year, in Ontario and the Provinces east of it, amounted to nearly seventeen million dollars. This does not include the figures from Manitoba and British Columbia, but it is well known that fish are very abundant in the latter province, and the fisheries, both as regards catching and canning, are carried on extensively. The total value of the catch in Ontario in 1883 is estimated at \$1,027,033. These figures show how small are the fishing operations here compared to those next the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Atlantic. The cod fisheries realized to the value of four million and a half dollars, the herring a little over two million and a quarter, and the lobster at nearly two million, while the salmon footed up to a million and a half, and mackerel one million three hundred thousand. The fishing industries give employment to a large number of the population of Nova Scotia and the adjoining Provinces, but it is well known that it is not a source of much wealth to those most intimately connected with it. The real toilers of the sea in connection with the fisheries are hardy fellows, but generally poor, their business usually affording them little more than the actual means of plain living. The men who grow wealthy out of the fishing industries are the merchants and ship owners, who often reap a rich harvest out of the results of the fisherman's hard toil.

Some curious speculators are asking the strange question whether there are not, at times, epidemics in particular kinds of crime as there are of particular kinds of diseases. This question has often been asked, for often there are strange coincidences that lead to such suggestions. Just now it would seem as though bigamy has broken out in a wonderful manner. In our criminal courts of this Province there have been four such cases up during the past week, and several others reported in the papers in which Canadians figure pretty prominently. The number of robberies within a few weeks has also been unusually large. Some months ago murders were reported almost daily for a time. Surely these are curious coincidences. Men skilled at theorizing may busy themselves about the facts as they will. Would some such men account for these moral outbreaks as they do of outbreaks of disease as the result of some irregularity in the atmosphere?

There might be curious theories, too, about epidemics of accidents of a particular kind. It has often been remarked

that a series of accidents of one particular class follow each other in quick succession. At the commencement of this month there were several cases of shipwrecks reported, and those, too, without any of those terrible storms so often causing shipwrecks by wholesale on the waters of the Atlantic. The "State of Florida" wreck was the worst of the lot, but the three others reported at nearly the same time were all seriously disastrous. About the commencement of this year what an alarmingly rapid succession of railway disasters there was along the country! Will something else in the line of disasters come next? Truth does not pretend to account for any of these things. They are happenings which occasion comment and that is all. If some producing cause could be so clearly pointed out that the misfortunes could be averted then much good would come if those skilled in cogitating on things curious would give such matters all their attention. But that is not at all probable.

According to the provisions of the Anatomy Act of the Province of Quebec the body of a dead man, not claimed by relatives or burial, may be legally handed over for purposes of dissection. Recently a sailor died in Quebec and his body was given over, but afterward claimed by his ship mates for Christian burial. There has been quite an outcry about the "inhuman law." It may be very fine and very sentimental to raise a cry of that kind about such legal provisions, but they now exist in both Quebec and this Province, but there is a practical side to the question as well, and it is but fair to look it in the face. It may not be a pleasant thing to talk about, or to even think of, but it is well enough known that dissections form a necessary part of the training of medical men to give them the proper knowledge for the benefit of the living. Of course "subjects" are necessary for dissection and they must be provided from some source. If the law makes no provision whatever for them to be legally obtained the unlawful business of "body-snatching," which is much worse yet, must go on. Would objectors to some such law stop anatomical studies altogether, or would they keep up the system of grave yard robberies? There must be some rational solution of an unpleasant problem.

#### The Scott Act Working.

The *Globe* has now a special correspondent, or "commissioner" at work in New Brunswick enquiring into the workings of the Canada Temperance Act in the Counties where it is in force in that Province. Of course all that is written now on this important subject will be read with much interest. No public question is to-day occupying so largely the attention of the people of Canada as that of the prohibition of the liquor traffic, in some shape or form. Some years ago the *Globe* sent two members of its editorial staff to Maine, to report on the workings of the Maine Laws, and it was one of the most successful hits that enterprising journal ever made. The articles were read everywhere and much good came out of them, both to the question of temperance, and to the paper itself. The present venture will

not be as popular, nor has it even entered into with the same spirit, but still a mass of information will be furnished such as newspaper readers will like to see.

More than one half of all the counties of the Province of New Brunswick have adopted the Scott Act and it has been in force, in part of them at least, including the capital city of Fredericton, for the past four years. During a large portion of that time the Act can hardly be said to have been in force at all, in consequence of the doubts existing whether it was law at all. It will be remembered that the Supreme Court of that Province pronounced the Act unconstitutional, and from that time until its decision was reversed and the constitutionality of the Act confirmed by the Privy Council, no court would give a conviction under its provisions. Of course the effect of all this was very demoralizing to the efficiency of the law, and it was not to be wondered at, therefore, that in many localities the success of the Act, so far, has been very problematical. Like all other laws, its success very largely depends on the character of the individual men in whose hands lies the duties of enforcing it.

Nothing has yet transpired in connection with the enforcement of the Scott Act in New Brunswick that goes to show that the law itself is defective or inefficient in any of its provisions. The Dunkin Act broke down with us because of its own defects, and the consequent difficulty of enforcing it. The Scott Act was formed with the special view of meeting these difficulties and it is now evident, by the experience of the last two or three years, that its framers did their work well. It is evident, too, that the people, as a whole, are fairly well satisfied with it where it is in force, or they would have repealed it before this time. When the Dunkin Act was put in force in Ontario it was repealed in most of the counties within less than a year of the earliest time that it was possible to repeal it in. Nothing of that kind can be said in regard to the Scott Act however. There are a large number of municipalities in the Maritime Provinces where the time has come when the people could repeal it if that was their desire. An attempt was made to do so in the city of Fredericton last year but it resulted in anything but a success to those who undertook the movement. The same was the case in Prince County, in Prince Edward Island. So conclusive was the verdict in each case that very little has been heard of repeal since. Whatever may be the testimony of special commissioners, or the opinion, as to success, of outsiders, the fact that the people themselves are determined to retain it is the most conclusive evidence possible in its favor. The people of each locality saw what was the state of things before the law was tried; they see what is the state of things now, and they know all the circumstances in connection with its attempted enforcement. They are, therefore, competent judges. The fact that the majority of the people continue in its favor will outweigh any number of facts or objections that may tend in the contrary direction.