

individuals of a given age, one with another, actually live; those who live longer than that period enjoying much more life in proportion to their numbers as those who live a shorter time enjoy less. For instance, it is proved, by a careful study of the laws of mortality in the northern part of the United States, that, at the age of 50 years, the expectation of life is 21.17 years. In other words, a man who has reached the age of 50, and is free from disease and the habits that shorten life, is likely to live to the age of 71 years and seventeen-hundredths. In a given case, the individual may fall short of that period, or pass beyond it; but if several persons are embraced in the calculation, the average duration of their lives will be as above stated.

We copy below, from the *American Almanac* for 1836, the Life-Expectation Table of Dr. Wigglesworth, constructed for the United States, and, we believe, generally accepted by our Life-Insurance Companies as the basis of their operations. These calculations are valuable and interesting, and the study of them may not be altogether unprofitable, in connection with the close of the year. Let us not blind ourselves to the fact, however, that death is not governed by mathematical tables, but often comes in a moment when least expected, "sending the dreadful tidings in the blast."

Age. Expectation.	Age. Expectation.	Age. Expectation.	Age. Expectation.
Years. Years.	Years. Years.	Years. Years.	Years. Years.
0.....28.15	32.....29.43	64.....13.05	
1.....36.78	33.....29.02	65.....12.43	
2.....38.74	34.....28.62	66.....11.96	
3.....40.01	35.....28.22	67.....11.48	
4.....40.73	36.....27.78	68.....11.01	
5.....40.88	37.....27.34	69.....10.50	
6.....40.69	38.....26.91	70.....10.06	
7.....40.47	39.....26.47	71.....9.60	
8.....40.14	40.....26.04	72.....9.14	
9.....39.72	41.....25.61	73.....8.69	
10.....39.23	42.....25.19	74.....8.25	
11.....38.64	43.....24.77	75.....7.83	
12.....38.02	44.....24.35	76.....7.40	
13.....37.41	45.....23.92	77.....6.99	
14.....36.79	46.....23.37	78.....6.59	
15.....36.17	47.....22.83	79.....6.21	
16.....35.76	48.....22.27	80.....5.85	
17.....35.37	49.....21.72	81.....5.50	
18.....34.98	50.....21.17	82.....5.16	
19.....34.59	51.....20.61	83.....4.87	
20.....34.22	52.....20.05	84.....4.66	
21.....33.84	53.....19.49	85.....4.57	
22.....33.46	54.....18.92	86.....4.39	
23.....33.08	55.....18.30	87.....4.20	
24.....32.70	56.....17.78	88.....4.07	
25.....32.33	57.....17.20	89.....3.96	
26.....31.93	58.....16.63	90.....3.73	
27.....31.56	59.....16.04	91.....3.52	
28.....31.08	60.....15.45	92.....3.32	
29.....30.66	61.....14.86	93.....3.12	
30.....30.25	62.....14.26	94.....2.98	
31.....29.83	63.....13.66	95.....2.62	

MAIL TO HUDSON'S BAY.

In view of the rapid settlement of the country between the head of Lake Superior and the Canadian line, a monthly mail has been established by our government between those points. This service is gratefully appreciated by the pioneers along the lake shore, and aside from this it bids fair to be of important service to our country. Between the boundary line and Hudson's Bay is a country abounding in various and valuable minerals. It is represented as

embracing very extensive silver deposits. The Hudson's Bay Company has several stations between the lake and the bay, and quite a number of traders and trappers inhabit that region. The mails to and from the stations, we believe, are carried overland from Quebec, via Hudson's Bay, and wholly at the expense of the Company. The recent establishment of our lake shore route having been viewed with favor by the agents of the company at these posts, we understand that some of our citizens re-communicated with them upon the subject of extending the route to Fort Albany, a post at the south-western extremity of the bay. The project, we are happy to state, met with a favorable reception, and promises to be successful. An effort will be made the coming winter, to obtain from the Canadian Parliament a charter for the route, and as a portion of it passes through our own territory, we hope our government, ever ready to open and encourage friendly and commercial intercourse with our Canadian neighbors, will contribute its proportion to this undertaking.

The distance from Superior to Grand Portage (the termination of the present mail service) is 150 miles; from Grand Portage to Fort William, (Hudson's Bay Company's post,) 25; Thunder Bay Neepigon House, 75; Neepigon House to Henly House, on Albany River, 50; Henly House to Fort Albany on Hudson's Bay, batteau navigation, 150—total from Superior to Fort Albany, 450 miles.

From Fort Albany to Quebec there is a regular mail carried, and the establishment of the route proposed would give us an overland mail from Superior to Quebec, and by the shortest but probably not for the present, the quickest route. It is not our purpose to dwell upon the beneficial tendencies of this enterprise. That it would aid in settling this vast area of country, represented as the most beautiful and fertile of the Northwest; in developing the rich and inexhaustible treasures now hidden beneath its surface, and in uniting the people of Canada and the United States, as one brotherhood, by the strong bonds of commerce and intercourse, no one will question.—*Superior Chronicle*.

STRYCHNINE.

From Dickens' Household Words.

In Ceylon and several districts of India grows a moderate sized tree, with thick shining leaves, and a short, crooked stem. In the fruit season it is readily recognized by its rich orange-colored berries, about as large as golden pippins; the rind is hard and smooth, and covers a white soft pulp, the favorite food of many kinds of birds, within which are the flat, round seeds, not an inch in diameter, ash grey in colour, and covered with very minute silky hairs. The Germans fancy they can discover a resemblance in them to grey eyes, and call them cow's eyes, but the likeness is purely imaginary. The tree is the *Strychnos nux vomica*, and the seed is the deadly poison nut. The latter was early used as a medicine by the Hindoos, and its nature and properties understood by Oriental doctors long before it was known to foreign nations. Dog-killers and Fishscale are two of its Arabic names. It is stated that at present the natives of Hindostan often take it for many months continuously, in much the same way as an opium eater eats opium. They commence with taking the eighth of a nut a day, and gradually increasing their allowance to an entire nut, which would be about twenty grains. If they eat it directly before or after food, no unpleasant effects are produced; but if they neglect this precaution, spasms result.