

Printing in Canada in 1871.

The following table exhibits the state of the printing trade in the province of Quebec in 1871, according to the official census returns of the Dominion of Canada for that year. The province of Quebec, it will be remembered, is the oldest province of those at present constituting the Dominion, and, as such, it might naturally be expected that she would have a larger number of publishing houses and newspapers, in proportion to area and population, than any of the other provinces. By reference to the table published in last month's *Miscellany*, it will be found that the province of Ontario has outstripped her older sister—Quebec; and there are good reasons for believing that the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, although very far behind at the present time, will be found close upon her before the lapse of many years, unless she throws off her present apparent sluggishness. However, as to that, time and the figures alone can tell. The figures for the province of Quebec are as follows:—

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

Places.	No. of Printers.	No. of P. Offices.	No. of Hands employed.		Yearly Wages.	Value of Raw Material.	Value of Articles Produced.
			M.	F.			
Pontiac, c.	1	1	4	.....	\$ 300	200	1,500
Ottawa, w.	1	1	4	.....	870	600	3,000
Terrebonne.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
L'Assomption, Joliette.	.....	.....	.....	.....	468	200	800
Montreal, centre.	30	23	547	120	208,320	187,935	547,185
Montreal, e.	198	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Montreal, w.	240	5	78	12	41,230	21,300	81,900
Howe's Bay.	1	1	4	.....	300	100	500
Jacques Cartier.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Beauharnois.	4	4	3	.....	318	285	1,200
Huntington, w.	8	1	4	.....	1,200	500	2,000
St. Jean.	9	18	.....	.....	6,100	4,200	21,000
Richlieu.	15	19	25	.....	3,000	2,600	15,000
St. Hyacinthe.	15	12	2	.....	3,700	2,600	8,400
Esqol.	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Berville.	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Miasiquoi.	2	2	.....	.....	1,000	1,100	6,500
Brome.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Shefford.	18	15	0	.....	2,300	900	5,200
Trois Rivieres.	1	20	.....	.....	4,300	2,500	10,400
Champlain, s.	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Arthabaska.	1	1	.....	.....	600	400	1,800
Richmond.	1	0	.....	.....	1,200	600	4,000
Sherbrooke.	11	11	.....	.....	1,740	1,400	4,500
Stanstead.	8	2	.....	.....	2,300	1,518	5,600
Compton.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Count de Quebec.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Quebec, w.	20	2	57	.....	23,800	19,450	36,000
Quebec, e.	15	10	247	12	68,400	63,000	231,000
Charlevoix.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
L'Isle.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Megantic.	1	1	.....	.....	500	300	1,500
Beauce, e.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Levis.	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Samouaska.	4	1	.....	.....	100	800	2,500
Rimouski.	4	1	5	.....	1,022	1,200	2,500
Total.	782	68	1085	156	574,478	303,118	998,045

Note.—The letters s, e, w, are used to designate the census districts, as laid down in the official returns, described as south, east, and west.

The figures under the heading of number of hands employed, male and female, represent those under sixteen years of age as well as

those over sixteen, which we were forced, by a mechanical difficulty, to group together. By analyzing the figures in the official returns, there is found three hundred and one males and sixty-three females, under sixteen years of age, employed in printing offices in the province of Quebec. The reasons advanced in the *Miscellany* last month in regard to the very large per centage of boys and girls working in printing offices, are equally applicable to all the provinces of North America. If it was not for this class of cheap labor newspapers in country districts would not have an existence, and no one will venture to assert that the country would be better without them. The press has tended, more than any other power, to produce those eventful changes in society and governments which have taken place within the past century. Its progress was slow at first, and its character but little elevated, but it has gradually become the instructor of the world in all that is important in public and private affairs. Sir E. L. Bulwer has said that "the newspaper is the chronicle of civilization, the common reservoir into which every stream pours its living waters, and at which every man may come and drink; it is the newspaper which gives to liberty practical life, its perpetual vigilance, its unrelaxing activity. The newspaper is a daily and sleepless watchman, that reports to you every danger which menaces the institutions of your country, and its interests at home and abroad. The newspaper informs legislation of the public opinion, and it informs people of the acts of legislation; thus keeping up that constant sympathy, that good understanding between people and legislators, which conduces to the maintenance of order, and prevents the stern necessity for revolution." We might go on and make endless quotations as to the great value of newspapers, particularly in country districts, but this will suffice for the present. Occasion may offer again, at no distant day, when we will be prepared to go into the matter more fully as regards the local country papers and the advantages derived from them.

CORRESPONDENTS will oblige by mailing their favors so that they will reach us not later than the 25th of each month, and earlier if possible. As we aim to have the *Miscellany* mailed in the first week of the month, it is necessary to go to press at least a week before. Of course practical printers will thoroughly understand this without further explanation.