

England and Wales, where the Immigration from Ireland has been, for many years past, greater than the Emigration from England; so much so that there are now more Irishmen in London than in Dublin. There are other circumstances also of a consoling nature: the Emigration to the United States seems to have passed its climax and a reaction is now taking place and will probably continue as long as the rate of wages finds its ordinary level and the emigrating mania is curing itself. The fecundity of our families, on the whole, is not impaired and the European Emigration, for the last three years, seems to take a more favorable view of the advantages offered by our country, in all its parts, for immigrants. Therefore, let us not be despondent, but let us at the same time avoid being deluded. We cannot be in a moment as big as some of our over sanguine fellow subjects were expecting, but let us try to be naturally as big as we can safely be.

Mr. Harvey, after having opposed suppositions to the Census, says:

"If five per cent. of the population of Quebec has been omitted, and eight of that of New Brunswick and Ontario, the additional three hundred thousand, which it is thought a correct enumeration would add to us, would make this total more respectable."

Let it not be lost sight of that no earthly being can have any knowledge of those supposed errors of the Census, which are purely drawn from imagination, for the simple reason that no philosopher can have any intuitive idea of such a thing, that no statistic has any means of discovering it by induction, that no mathematician can put it to any possible test of calculation. The facts are, 1st, that the Census is the legal, legitimate enquiry, performed under an approved and tried system by the constituted authority, with the help of 12 supervising officers, 206 directing and revising commissioners, and nearly 3,000 enumerators, all educated beforehand for that purpose, all sworn at the beginning and the end of their work, and each one acting for the section of country best known to him, in which he is interested and for which his affection is most intense; 2nd, that the returns, in the whole, show an increase of about 1.00 annually; 3rd, that the Province of Quebec is the only one of the four enumerated whose increase is reported to have fallen below the average of 1.00; 4th, that the bulk of the population of that Province of Quebec is renowned for its extraordinary fecundity, which Mr. Harvey himself picturesquely acknowledges in the following words:—
"almost every house looks like a rabbit warren for young."

The logical, the natural conclusions would therefore be that the Census is as correct as any operation of the kind, under the circumstances of the country, can reasonably be expected to be, and that, if there had been errors of omission, the Province of Quebec is that in which they would most likely have taken place.

The contrary conclusions, upon such record, seem to me very much like the sentence of a certain magistrate, who is said to have decided a case as follows:—"The evidence is to me very unsatisfactory indeed: as it is its weight would seem to go in favor of Flanagan, but as the said Flanagan has red hair, I feel that the ends of justice will be better attained in giving judgement in favor of Jones for half the sum, Flanagan paying the costs."

I am glad before closing this paper to be able to agree in the views and opinions of Mr. Harvey on one point, at all events, namely the important subject of vital statistics. Nothing can be more correct than the statement that recording marriages, births and deaths cannot be done, even with approximate accuracy, in the taking of a Census. This is essentially a matter of day to day registration. The Catholic population of the Province of Quebec is possessed of such registration, from the earliest time of the colony, and a more complete, useful and interesting record can hardly be imagined. Apart from its social utility, I would be inclined to say necessity, it constitutes an important and especially attractive statistical page, not only as regards Canada, but also as concerning the science itself, as being the only record in existence which goes back without interruption and in all its details for two centuries and a half, giving the entire family history of a whole population from its very first origin.

The immense statistical labor, as compared with the small force employed at it, which has been quietly but incessantly carried on in the Department of Agriculture since 1864, is now nearly completed. From the long list of the yearly registration of the movements of the Catholic population of the Province of Quebec, (to which are added the abstracts of all the Censuses ever taken in the four Provinces) we gather that the total number of Catholic marriages since the time of Champlain (1608) to the year 1870 inclusive, has been 373,146, that the total number of births has been 2,244,317 and that the total number of deaths has been 1,060,760. This shows a grand total of excess of births over the number of deaths amounting to 1,183,557, including both the French Can-