

ing; her mineral stores are being brought to light; her commerce is daily extending; her literature is steadily, though slowly, improving; and perhaps, at no very distant period, may be rendered celebrated by the genius of bards and writers, to whom Canadian soil may give birth.

At the present time, but few works by native authors have been published in the province. A writer, who visited Canada six or seven years ago, states: "The books chiefly met with in the book stores are American reprints of English works, which, though imported at a duty of thirty per cent., when passed through the custom-house here, can be sold at about half the price of the English editions; and when smuggled across, and the duty of thirty per cent. evaded, they can of course be sold at so much less. The consequence is, that few English editions are sold of any work of which the Americans make a reprint; as these, having nothing to pay the authors for copyright, can furnish them so much cheaper than an English publisher could do. A very few books are published originally in Canada, such as school books, local histories, and works for which the demand is likely to be large in the province; and these are quite as well executed as they would be in any part of the United States."

Though the foregoing be true of the time alluded to, yet, during the last four or five years, a marked improvement has taken place. Standard English works have been reduced in price, and are rendered more accessible to the reading public: the thirst for knowledge has increased, and an improved taste for literature is now manifested; which may be attributable partly to the establishment of superior educational institutions, and partly to the various societies for promoting and disseminating knowledge.

Newspapers are the chief, and nearly the sole arena for the employment of the wits and pens of the literati of this country; and although not conducted with that masterly spirit and dignified character which stamps with the impress of genius and greatness the leading journals in the mother country, they are not deficient in learning and talent, and are perhaps as well adapted to the wants and tastes of the Canadian community as could be reasonably expected. It must, however, be admitted, that many trashy journals emanate from the press, which either meet a speedy and deserved fate, or drag on a lingering existence.

The editing of a newspaper has too often been thought a simple task, and an easy method of procuring a livelihood; and hence many have assumed the honours and responsibilities of editorship, without being qualified for the task either by education or experience, and consequently have only added to the number of ephemeral and worthless prints which occasionally spring into a short-lived existence.

The first paper issued in this province—the *Quebec Gazette*—was printed in that city in 1765, six years after its conquest by the British. The *Gazette*—the oldest paper existing in Montreal—was not published till some years after. And nearly ninety periodicals are now circulated in the province, a number greater, in proportion to the population, than that of the United States.

The first American paper was published at Philadelphia in 1719. The number of journals is about 800, of which 50 are published daily, and their annual circulation about 60,000,000. Compared with England, the circulation of newspapers in the United States has a numerical preponderance of nearly 6 to 5½; the number of stamps issued for the year in Britain, according to a late return, being only 56,443,977. It must, however, be remarked, that the return was refused by the British parliament.

Estimating, however, the population of the United States at 18,000,000, and that of the United Kingdom at 30,000,000, one cannot fail to be struck with the comparison.

It would be a matter of some difficulty to ascertain correctly the number of papers actually sold in Canada: judging, however, from the countries alluded to, and the modern date of many towns in the province, it may be safely limited to two millions, which would give a weekly circulation of nearly 1000 to each.

The great desideratum yet to be supplied, is a journal of sufficient influence, and conducted with such ability, as to give a healthy and elevated tone to the press generally; to control and direct public opinion into its proper channel; to overlook and carefully watch the proceedings of the legislature; to analyse principles; to exhibit political measures to public view; to supervise all questions of general

utility, whether relating to agriculture, commerce, education, or jurisprudence, and in fine, to exert the same power over the press of this country as the *Times* does over that of Europe.

As education progresses, and the intellectual energies of the "sons of Canada" become developed, it may be presumed that men of ability and genius will arise, to conduct this important department of literature to maturity and perfection.

The decrees of Providence are as firm as they are inscrutable. What, therefore, may be the future position of Canada, whether a free and an independent nation, or a supplementary state or province, is unknown to human ken. The Creator, however, has assigned certain laws, equally affecting empires as well as individuals. Greatness of character in man depends upon the efforts of a powerful genius and a well directed mind: greatness of nations, upon collective wisdom, and a well governed community. Ignorance is weakness, nay, more, is sinful; but "knowledge is power." It is to the mind of man what blood is from the fountain of life to the body. It furnishes strength to the intellect, reason to the mind, and judgment to the understanding, as the precious fluid imparts flesh, bone, and muscle to the human frame. Deprive the body of the one, life becomes extinct: deprive the mind of the other, intelligence is extinguished, and the soul becomes totally dead.

"Vita sine literis mors est."

DR. CANDLISH ON THE SABBATH QUESTION.

At a meeting held lately in Manchester, on the important subject of whether the Lord's day is to be desecrated by the running of railway trains, the Rev. Dr. Candlish made the following pertinent remarks:—

Rev Dr Candlish.—It's very easy of some to say that all Sabbath protection ought to be done away with, and that then in that case men's principles would be tested—men's principles would be tried—and that the defects they would have in the observance of the Sabbath would be the touch-stone of their allegiance to the Lord of the Sabbath. But we cannot forget the petition, "lead us not into temptation"—we cannot believe that it is the will of God that men should be tempted above what they are able to bear. And I venture to say that this temptation, above all, namely, the temptation to which a man is subjected when he has to balance between having a starving wife and family at home, and some small encouragement for work on the Lord's-day—this temptation is one which ought to be put out of the way of our fellow-men. It is a temptation that no Christian man would desire himself to be exposed to. It is peculiarly dangerous, all the more, still all the more dangerous, because I venture to say cases of conscience could at this moment be put to Mr Stowell or myself, which neither he nor I could safely solve. Talk of keeping the Sabbath without protection that men's principles may be tried! Leave other commandments without protection that men's principles may be tried. Leave the sixth commandment without protection that men's principles may be tried. And the protection we seek, remember, for the fourth commandment is just the very same in principle and the very same in extent as the protection which we seek for the sixth, the seventh, the eighth, and the ninth. Can we, by any species of protection, impart to the natural mind that is characterized in Scripture as "hateful and hating one another,"—can we impart to the natural mind the spirit of that love that worketh no ill to his neighbour? No, Sir. But are we on that account to repeal our laws against murder, and violence, and all sorts of atrocity? Who would be guilty of such sophistry in reference to the sixth commandment. Men talk of coercion as if we were now proposing in Scotland to revive some of the old laws that were enforced in days to which I shall not particularly refer, as to fining and imprisoning men who did not attend their parish-church. Men talk of coercion as if we were proposing to march the whole community by tuck of drum to church every Lord's-day morning. But a plain man will not thus be misled. What is the protection we seek? It is just that every human being, so far as public legislation can go, or public measures can go, shall have the Sabbath and the whole day entirely to himself, that he may give it entirely to his God, whose day it is. And, I trust, that none here will be led away by the vain cry of injustice to the poor man. Sir, can they be the benefactors of the poor man who, after the toil of the whole week, would exact from him his sweat on the Sabbath, too? The curse of the fall has rested on the six days, but God has kept the seventh clear of it. The curse of the fall, "in the sweat of thy brow shalt thou eat bread"—that curse lies on the six days of labour; but, God be praised, His Sabbath, the seventh day, has been left free from the curse of the fall, and still pervaded with the type and character of heaven.

The article of Eggs is actually sent from Ohio, by Railroad to Boston: In May, 1842, seventy barrels, containing nearly 60,000, were thus sent.