

movements of our population were prepared for a result which has taken by entire surprise a large portion of our public, laboring under the delusions of the anticipated figures.

The statement of the facts revealed by the census is easily sustained by the argument derived from notorious concomitant events. With the exception of the three last seasons (only two appertaining to the last decenniad) the immigration permanently settling in the country has been, for many years past, comparatively a mere nothing, at the same time that a considerable emigration was going out from all parts of our four Provinces, but more especially from the Province of Quebec. That emigration towards the United States, already begun during the previous decades, has been intensified during the last one. An immense vacuum in the labor market had been created, during that period, in the midst of the able bodied male population of the neighbouring Republic, by several years of a fierce civil war, and the coincident fact of the abolition of compulsory slave labour. The call to fill up came under the double form of plenty to do and high wages. Our comparatively small population furnished, as could not be otherwise expected, a large part of the filling, thereby causing an absolute diminution of the population, and a proportionate diminution in the ratio of increase of our people. To remain blind to the light of such a plain explanation of the results ascertained, supported by such a broad notorious fact, would certainly indicate a very unhealthy state of the public mind.

The reflecting mind of Mr. Harvey, notwithstanding that he impugns the accuracy of the census on mere suppositions, is in spite of himself drawn to deal with the fact of a diminution in the rate of increase of our population:—for those who are accustomed to analyse the human mind and the association of ideas, it is a decisive proof that Mr. Harvey is, in reality, and at the bottom of his soul, more convinced of the accuracy of the census than he has made himself aware of. He says:

"there seems to be a point at which population in the old countries stops, and it is probably reached when there are as many people farming the land as can profitably do so by their own labour, and without employing capital in under-draining, sub-soil ploughing, or artificial manures. In the present state of the continent, with new lands within easy reach, it possibly pays the farmer better to send his sons away to seek them than to strive to increase his crops by applying science and capital to the old farm. That it does so has evidently become the prevailing belief."

There is no doubt a great weight, a very great weight, in the ably stated remarks above quoted; but,—the conclusion which logically follows these premises, is that a diminution in the ratio of increase of our population becomes a matter of course, to an extent commensurate with this cause added to the other forces at work in creating and maintaining the existing current of emigration.

Further, Mr. Harvey says:—

"Have the farming lands been too much subdivided?—and is a clearing out process commencing naturally, like that which was carried out forcibly in the Scottish Highlands, where in order to get the best returns, the landlords made the cottagers leave their small farms and seek new ones in another country? If it has—and if the limit of population has been reached, that can be by the system of farming in vogue in Quebec and Ontario be well supported, it is quite clear that the surplus population of both Provinces must flow. It will go northward only by degrees, though when it does pass the Laurentian ridges, and get established on the clay soils north of them, it may fill up another tier of counties yet. It will keep, if not on the same parallel of latitude as near to it as possible; emigration movements always do. It will keep on the zone of similar vegetation. It may, for aught we know, have already largely swarmed the population of Minnesota, Wisconsin and part of Michigan. Some of it may have been seduced to Illinois and Iowa, but the Canadian seldom stays there long. It will, if facilities are provided, rather remain under the old institutions, and we shall find that when a railway is constructed it will seek the North Western Territories—and probably get as far westward as it can on the Assiniboine and the south Saskatchewan to escape the extreme cold of the Red River Country."

Again these reflections and devices, to counteract or make up for a deficiency (which was not made an element of the anticipated figures, but which the actual enumeration was sure to meet), go to the whole length of supporting the accuracy of the Census.

Without dwelling on the aphorisms of Emigration propounded in the above quoted paragraph which assumes that Emigration "will not go southward, that it will keep if not on the same parallel of latitude, as near to it as possible, that it will rather remain under the old institutions." I cannot avoid expressing my firm belief in the facts that migratory currents will often times go southward, that they will go to some distance and even far away from any given parallel of latitude and to very different institutions.

Mr. Harvey concludes one part of his remarks by the following reflection:

"Without a steady influx from Europe or Asia, are we like the old temple and mound builders, our predecessors on this continent, doomed to ultimate extinction?"

Evidently this is taking a more gloomy aspect of things than necessary. Even at the rate of an annual increase of one per cent, there is no threatening of annihilation: it is about the rate of increase of