

English language is a pedagogic superstition. The same time spent over a few English classics would enlarge their vocabulary, elevate their taste, and develop a critical knowledge of the structure and grammar of English, especially if they were well drilled in composition, which art is greatly neglected in public schools. The modern custom of giving boys a smattering of Greek, who are not preparing for the more thorough studies of a classical course at a University is sheer and cruel waste of time. The time taken up in learning the Greek alphabet and mastering, say, the various phases of a Greek verb (our old friend "tupto," for instance), and the labor spent scrawling out Greek writing-copy lessons, would be sufficient for a careful study of a Shakespearian play, or one of Erskine's or Bright's speeches, or Kingsley's or Ruskin's essays, by which exercises more knowledge of English would be acquired than grinding for years at Greek literature, even if the range went from the "war correspondent," Xenophon, to Homer (whom Cowper called simple), and on to Euripides, the obscure. The so-called learning of the vast majority of school boys amounts to nothing more than a very thin coating of classical varnish, which evaporates in a few weeks after leaving school. Had the time so wasted been added to that given to mastering, say, French or German, a thorough knowledge of which will be of practical value in their business career, or devoted to English composition they would be far better equipped for their life's work as men of affairs and of business. What is more, a thorough grounding in English would open out to them sources of perennial mental strength, pleasure and refreshment, the zest and the value of which would be a life-long experience, for, as Lord Bacon says, "The pleasure and delight of knowledge far surpasseth all other in nature; and of knowledge there is no satiety, but satisfaction and appetite are perpetually interchangeable." (See "Advancement of Learning," Book I. viii., 5.

An esteemed correspondent at Halifax **Our Trade** is desirous of seeing "a more general with the agitation as to the value of the West West Indies. Indian markets in the Canadian press," and writes us to find space to discuss the question in THE CHRONICLE, his high estimation of which we appreciate. There is not only no natural incongruity in a paper devoted to finance and insurance giving some prominence to trade questions, but such commercial questions are very closely associated with both finance and insurance. Indeed, it would take a finer dissecting knife than any yet made to divide the question of home and foreign markets from the business of insurance or of finance. The interests of commerce and of insurance are inextricably blended; they grow and decline together, for the conditions favor-

able to or inimical to trade are conditions that proportionately influence the business of insurance. Our correspondent's letter says:—

"The markets of the West Indies are all very large consumers of food stuffs such as Canada produces, but we regret to say that until the present practically all the supplies have been drawn from the United States. The import of flour alone for the colonies of British Guiana, the West Indies and Jamaica are in the vicinity of 750,000 barrels per year, while for cheese, butter, canned goods and numerous other articles produced in Canada there is also a large consumption."

Our thanks are due for above letter, the hint in which will be taken.

THE CENSUS, 1901.

The Census returns given out by the Government on 16th inst. give the total population of Canada on the 31st March last as 5,338,883 as compared with 4,833,239 in 1891, the increase in 10 years having been 505,644. In 1871 the population was 3,686,596, so in 20 years there was an increase of 1,652,287. The increase between 1871 and 1891 was 44.9 per cent., or an average per year of 82,760. Between 1891 and 1901 the increase was 10.4 per cent., being an average yearly increase of 50,564. The result of the Census has created universal disappointment throughout the Dominion as an impression generally prevailed that the population would prove to be at least 800,000 in excess of 1891. The estimated population of England when it was about the same as that of Canada shows even less percentages of increase as is shown by the figures below:

Year.	Population.	Increase per cent.	Year.	Population.	Increase per cent.
1570.....	4,160,221	1670.....	5,773,646	3.0
1600.....	4,811,718	8.3	1700.....	6,045,008	4.7
1630.....	5,600,517	16.3	1750.....	6,517,035	7.8

In the period of 180 years the population of England is estimated to have increased in average at the rate of only 13,100 per year. The returns were probably incorrect, but it was an easier matter in those times to number the people than it is to day, as there were so few travelling or away from home. Since 1801, when the first official Census was taken of Great Britain, the average increase per cent. in 90 years was for England and Wales 14.04 and for Scotland 10.76. From 1881 to 1891 the England and Wales increase was 11.65 and Scotland 7.77, so the increase in Canada from 1891 to 1901 was only 1.60 per cent. below the increase in England from 1881 to 1891, and it was 2.6 per cent. greater than the increase in Scotland from 1881 to 1891. It is alleged that Canada has lost part of its "natural increase" since 1891. But the "natural increase" of