

particular pursuit, view it only through that medium. A politician thinks of it merely as the seat of government; a grazier, as a vast market for cattle; a mercantile man, as a place where a prodigious deal of business is done on change; a dramatic enthusiast, as the grand scene of theatrical entertainments; a man of pleasure, as an assemblage of taverns. But the intellectual man is struck with it as comprehending the whole of human life in all its variety, the contemplation of which is inexhaustible." "If you wish," he adds, "to have a just notion of the magnitude of this city, you must not be satisfied with seeing its great streets and squares, but must survey the innumerable little lanes and courts. It is in the multiplicity of human habitations which are crowded together, that the wonderful immensity of London consists."

About a hundred years have passed since Boswell wrote these words, and if London at that time was immense in "the multiplicity of human habitations," how much more immense is it now, with its habitations more than doubled as compared with their number then!

Two hundred years ago the population was less than 500,000, which is little more than its present rate of increase every ten years.

If on a map of London one point of a pair of compasses were placed at Charing cross, the other point removed ten miles distant, and a circle described, said circle would about define the district over which the jurisdiction of the London metropolitan police extends. The number of human beings found in this district must now exceed four millions,—a population greater perhaps than that of all Canada, or than that of the three largest cities of Europe, namely, Paris, Vienna, and Berlin, combined.

Halifax has a population of about 40,000, and covers considerable area. A city fifteen times the size of Halifax would be large—larger than any on this continent but one, namely, New York; but a hundred Halifaxes would not make one London.

It requires in fact some effort of imagination to grasp the idea of London's size and population. Just think of a single street as long as from Wolfville to Windsor, not indeed called throughout by the same name, but running substantially in the same direction, and continuously and magnificently built up all the way! Outlying districts which were formerly separated from London by miles of open field, are now covered with streets and houses, including many fine squares. Of such, mention might be made of Pancras, anciently a lonely hamlet, one mile distant from Holborn Bars, and often called *Pancras-in-the-fields*. Less than one hundred years ago, its population numberless than six hundred. Now it has a circumference of 18 miles, with a population of 200,000. In Domesday book, Westminster is styled a village with fifty holders of land, and a "pennage for a hundred hogs." The present city, with the adjacent districts, called the liberties of Westminster, has a population of 300,000 persons. The district north of Hyde Park, one or two hundred years ago an open field, but now chiefly inhabited by merchants, bankers, and lawyers, has been styled by Thackeray, "the elegant, the prosperous, the polite Tyburnia, the most respectable district in the habitable globe! Over that road which the hangman used to travel constantly, and the Oxford stage twice a week, go ten thousand carriages every day. Over yonder road by which Dick Turpin fled to Windsor, and Squire Western journeyed into town, what a rush of civilization and order flows now! what armies of gentlemen with umbrellas march to banks and chambers, and counting houses! what regiments of nursery maids and pretty infantry; what peaceful processions of policemen; what light broughams, and what gay carriages; what swarms of busy apprentices and artificers riding on omnibus roofs, pass daily and hourly!"

If as many people as would equal the population of Nova Scotia should migrate from London to other parts of the world, there would be no very *perceptible* diminu-