

NOTES ON THE CENSUS.

The following table shows the population of the Provinces composing the Dominion of Canada as it was at the time of the Census of 1861, and as it is expected to be each year until 1871 :—

Provinces.	POPULATION IN JAN'RY 1861.			EXPECTED POPULATION IN JAN'Y		
	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.	1869	1870	1871
Ontario.....	725,575	670,516	1,396,091	1,962,067	2,047,334	2,136,308
Quebec.....	567,864	543,702	1,111,566	1,354,067	1,387,884	1,422,546
New Brunswick.....	129,948	122,099	252,047	319,027	319,398	327,800
Nova Scotia.....	165,584	165,273	330,857	382,365	389,343	396,449
The Dominion.....	1,588,971	1,501,590	3,090,561	4,009,526	4,143,959	4,283,103

These figures were given in the Year Book for 1868, (to which, and to that for 1867, we refer for much detailed information respecting the Census of the Dominion) and have called forth a great deal of correspondence. They are avowedly based upon the annual rate of progress of each Province between the last two Censuses, and many persons have written to the editor to express their doubt whether that rate has really been maintained. The subject had received much thought before any figures were published, and subsequent reflection and enquiry have confirmed the belief in their general accuracy. It is true that there has been, since 1861, some emigration to the United States, but on the other hand there has been a large immigration thence, such movements being the mere exchange of population natural to conterminous countries. It is also true that our main lines of railway were built, and that the immigration consequent thereupon occurred before 1861, but the agricultural, commercial and manufacturing interests they have created have grown up since then, and a number of small lines, in all parts of the Dominion, have also been quite lately constructed. There is consequently little doubt in the mind of the writer that the rate of progress of the past decade has been maintained in the present. The annual rate, it may be repeated, was 4.34 per cent. in Ontario, 2.50 per cent. in Quebec, 2.60 per cent. in New Brunswick and 1.82 per cent. in Nova Scotia.

When we compare the difference between the natural increase of the population here and in European Countries, we shall cease to wonder at the rapid progress of this continent. In the census year 1861, the following were the births and deaths in the several Provinces, as given in the tables :—

	Births.	Deaths.
Ontario.....	53,178	10,160
Quebec.....	40,788	12,928
New Brunswick.....	8,721	2,390
Nova Scotia.....	10,236	4,679

112,923 30,157

Continuing a table deduced by Mr. Samuel Brown, F.S.S., from M. Quetelet's figures we have the following table of fecundity and mortality for European countries and our own :—

	Fecundity—Births to 10,000 of the population.		Mortality—Deaths to 10,000 of the population.		Ratio Births Deaths	INCREASE— Births minus Deaths.
	Census year.	Average of years.	Census year.	Average of years.		
France.....	256	255	209	232	1,11	23
Greece.....	296	288	210	..	1,38	86
Belgium.....	297	303	205	226	1,34	67
Hanover.....	321	304	234	227	1,34	77
England.....	341	323	211	210	1,53	113
Bavaria.....	341	325	262	281	1,16	44
Sweden.....	334	326	175	210	1,55	116
Netherlands.....	351	327	313	247	1,32	80
Denmark.....	342	329	217	214	1,53	15
Norway.....	356	330	184	171	1,93	159
Portugal.....	358	330	208	..	1,72	150
Spain.....	391	366	267	276	1,32	90
Austria.....	383	369	272	275	1,34	94
Prussia.....	377	398	269	262	1,45	136
Saxony.....	408	412	303	278	1,48	134
Russia.....	488	412	376	..	1,30	112
Ontario.....	381	..	71	..	5,23	310
Quebec.....	367	..	117	..	3,14	250
New Brunswick.....	346	..	94	..	3,65	252
Nova Scotia.....	309	..	141	..	2,19	168
The Dominion.....	365	..	98	..	3,75	267
The United States.....	331	..	124	..	2,67	207

Of course these figures are considerably influenced by the emigration which leaves Europe for America, which being usually of people in the prime of life, swells the births, rate here much sooner than the death rate. But after making all allowances for this, and for possible inaccuracies in our census, the influence remains, that the natural increase of the population of the Dominion is one of the most rapid in the world; a conclusion moreover strengthened by elaborate statistical investigations too lengthy to repeat here. Nor need we wonder at this. The necessities of life are abundant, the struggle for existence is not yet arduous; children are therefore a blessing rather than a burden