

two or three earnest workers, or even of *one*. Every well disposed person can set himself some work to do for the public good, and can collect facts of great interest to the community. If a central association be established in Montreal, its corresponding secretary could communicate with all other associations, committees or individuals, and could easily point out the special objects to which the labours of all willing workers could be most advantageously directed at the time.

It is thus that the Smithsonian Institution at Washington has already accomplished such great results for natural and physical science. There has been organized a large corps of willing correspondents in every part of the continent; and at different times the secretary issues circulars, requesting *special attention to one subject at a time*. Many who do not know how to set to a general work, or to labour in a variety of objects, are found willing and able to make special enquiries on particular branches which have to be completed in a given time.

Such committees, or individuals, in correspondence with a central association, might be able to render very essential service in the forthcoming census, especially in the supplementary enquiries, and might prepare materials for the enumerators, which might otherwise escape their scrutiny.

Statistics of trade, produce, manufactures, &c., are always valuable. Still more so are accurate tables of births and deaths; distinguishing the former according to race, sex and month, the latter, in addition, according to age, and (*remote and immediate*) cause of death. Particulars of ordinary religious, educational and charitable institutions, should likewise be collected; and especially those of every unusual institution. Of more painful interest are those of crime, insanity, malformations, and calamities, and of classified diseases. In each district, the number of houses in which intoxicating liquors are sold, should be carefully noted, and approximate calculations made as to the amount consumed, and the public and private evils known to have resulted from their use.

All these facts become of far greater value, if continued and compared from year to year. Single years, especially in the matter of births and deaths, are liable to give very erroneous results, even in large communities. It is only by striking the average for many years that correct conclusions can be drawn. For this reason, the mortality tables of the forthcoming census, even if taken with the greatest attainable accuracy, may be expected to present many incongruous results, which residents in each district may be able to correct, if they take the trouble to provide the materials for longer averages.

As a general rule, it may be said that the comfortable classes can provide for their own wants. It is for the "perishing and dangerous classes," for the feeble, the sickly, the poor, the victims of the liquor traffic, the uneducated, the tenants of unhealthy houses, for all, in fact, who are either unable or unwilling to provide what is needful for body, mind and soul, that the exertions of all earnest people are required. It has been said that colonial life is apt to develop more selfishness than in settled countries; if there be any truth in the statement, let us unite in proving it henceforth a libel on our fair country.

## THE CANAL SYSTEM.

The canal system of Canada has been before described in the *Year Book*, (see Vol. for 1867, p. 38.) but as the question is exciting renewed attention, and extensive projects are entertained to enlarge and supplement it, in connection with the carrying trade of the neighbouring States, we give the facts.

The State of New York has built a canal from Buffalo on Lake Erie, and from Oswego on Lake Ontario, to Albany on the Hudson River, the former being 360 miles, and the latter 209 miles in length, capable of passing boats of 210 tons burden, and she has also constructed a canal from the Hudson river into Lake Champlain, of 65 miles, capable of passing boats of 80 tons.

The Canadian system has improved the St. Lawrence by a canal, which connects Lake Erie with Lake Ontario, of 28 miles in length, with a fall of 260 feet, through which vessels of 400 tons can pass.

The St. Lawrence from the east end of Lake Ontario, to Lake St. Louis, has a fall of 220 feet, overcome by seven short canals, of the aggregate length of 47 miles, capable of passing vessels of 650 tons.

A canal of one mile in length, (built by the United States) at the foot of Lake Superior, connects that Lake with Lake Huron, and has two locks capable of passing vessels of 2,000 tons.

Such is the nature of the navigation between tide water on the Hudson, St. Lawrence sea navigation, and the Upper Lakes.

Besides the canals as a means of carriage, there are the railroads, and they transport a very large amount of freight between the west and the east; but a though there are many