

It is a curious fact that the proportion of male to female births in England and Wales has been steadily diminishing.*

117. The proportion in Ontario in 1884, according to the Provincial returns, was 106·8. Proportion in Ontario.

118. From the figures that are given in the census volumes relating to the Catholic population of Quebec, and which are, as stated, believed to be quite trustworthy, it is found from the number of marriages and births between the years 1608 and 1883 that the average number of births to a marriage has been 5·98, and this rate, high as it is, would appear to be on the increase, since the average births to a marriage between the years 1876 to 1883, inclusive, was 6·04. It is well understood that the average number would not be found as high as this if the figures for the whole Dominion could be obtained. Proportion of births to marriages among Catholic population in Quebec.

119. The following is a statement of the average number of births to a marriage in some of the countries of Europe, for the period 1871-1880, as given in Mulhall's Dictionary of Statistics*, to which have been added the figures for the Colony of Victoria, taken from the Victorian Year Book, 1885 :— Births to marriages in Europe.

BIRTHS TO A MARRIAGE IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

Births to each Marriage.		Births to each Marriage.	
Ireland.....	5·46	England	4·16
Victoria.....	4·78	Sweden	4·01
Scotland.....	4·43	Denmark.....	3·55
Holland.....	4·34	France	2·98
Belgium.....	4·21		

While the marriage rate in France is high, the ratio of births to a marriage is lower than that of any other country ; it is, moreover, still on the decrease.

120. The proportions of the sexes in Canada per 1,000 inhabitants were, in 1871, males 507, females 493, and in Proportions of the sexes in Canada.

*3rd Report of the Registrar General of England.