

The Rideau canal, 135 miles in length, begins at Kingston, and unites the Ottawa river with Lake Ontario. There are canals both from Lake Erie and Ontario which open a direct communication with New York by the Hudson river. A canal commencing at Cleveland, on Lake Erie, communicates with the Illinois river, and consequently with the Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico, which is thus united by inland navigation with the Gulf of St. Lawrence. No country in the world possesses such magnificent lines of internal transport, and the industry and commercial activity which they are calculated to develop will become enormous as the population increases. At Chillicothe, in Ohio, 280 miles south of Cleveland, the farmer sells his wheat at 2s. 6d. a bushel, and it is carried by canal to Cleveland, on the south-western shores of Lake Erie, where, if the price at Chillicothe be 2s. 6d. the bushel, it is sold at 3s. 6d., and purchased on account of the merchants of Kingston and Montreal, at which latter place the bushel, originally purchased for 2s. 6d. is usually disposed of for 5s. 6d. But for these means of transport the farmer in the centre of Ohio would be unable to exchange the raw produce of the soil for articles of luxury and secondary necessity. South of Chillicothe all the chief products of agriculture are sent to New Orleans, just in the same way that the shipping demands for corn for the ports of the Black Sea and of the Baltic encounter each other in the heart of Poland. The future greatness of the four great Canadian cities is rapidly rising, in consequence of the facilities of transport which they command, and the growing attractions which Canada offers to emigrants from the United Kingdom. The population of the two united provinces is now, according to the best calculation, 1,250,000, and a stream of immigration is pouring into them at a rate varying from thirty to fifty thousand persons a year.

The approach to Kingston from Montreal is very interesting. The river, which from Montreal to its opening into Lake Ontario changes its name from the St. Lawrence to the Catarqui, has the appearance of a lake, and is studded with one thousand six hundred and ninety-two islets. This part is called the Lake of the Thousand Isles. Opposite the city the river is divided into two channels by Wolfe or Long Island, the centre of which forms an elevated ridge, covered by a magnificent forest. The town is situated on the western bank of a short estuary, into which the Rideau canal communicates. Point Henry, a promontory rising one hundred feet above the level of the lake, and crowned with strong fortifications, commanding a narrow channel of the river, is on the opposite side of the estuary. A dangerous shoal renders it necessary to make a considerable sweep before entering the well-sheltered harbour, in the course of which the town, with the public storehouses, built of white stone, the barracks, and other public buildings, become visible; and Navy Bay, the depôt of the naval force on the lakes, is passed. The houses extend above a mile and a half along the shores of the lake, which form a gentle acclivity the summit of which consists of a plateau of limestone rock, from which there is a magnificent view, embracing the lake, the river, the islands, and forests. A wooden bridge, built in fifteen feet water, and six hundred yards long, is thrown across the estuary. Vessels drawing fifteen feet water come close to the wharfs, and Kingston is a principal rendezvous of the large steamers which navigate Lake Ontario. The principal streets are sixty-six feet wide, and run from north to south and from east to west, and are soon dry after the heaviest rains, in consequence of the favourable nature of the site. The fortifications have been excavated from the granite and limestone rock, and are striking from their solidity and extent. Among

the most important public buildings are the provincial penitentiary and a large public hospital. The population, which was 3500 in 1828, is now about 6000.

NOXIOUS EFFECTS OF IMPROPER HABITATIONS.

[From Mr. Chadwick's Report on the Sanitary Condition of Great Britain.]

It became evident in the progress of the inquiry that several separate circumstances had each its separate moral as well as physical influence. Thus tenements of inferior construction had manifestly an injurious operation on the moral as well as on the sanitary condition, independently of any overcrowding. For example, it appears to be matter of common observation, in the instance of migrant families of workpeople who are obliged to occupy inferior tenements, that their habits soon become "of a piece" with the dwelling. A gentleman who has observed closely the condition of the workpeople in the south of Cheshire and the north of Lancashire, men of similar race and education, working at the same description of work, namely, as cotton-spinners, mill-hands, and earning nearly the same amount of wages, states that the workmen of the north of Lancashire are obviously inferior to those in the south of Cheshire in health and habits of personal cleanliness and general condition. The difference is traced mainly to the circumstance that the labourers in the north of Lancashire inhabit stone houses of a description that absorb moisture, the dampness of which affects the health, and causes personal uncleanness, induced by the difficulty of keeping a clean house. The operation of the same deteriorating influences were also observable in Scotland, and it may be illustrated by several instances which I have met with in the course of my own personal inquiries.

One of the circumstances most favourable to the improvement of the condition of an artisan or an agricultural labourer is his obtaining as a wife a female who has had a good industrial training in the well-regulated household of persons of a higher condition. The following instance of the effect of the dwelling itself on the condition of a female servant when married was brought to my notice by a member of the family in which they had been brought up. One was of a young woman who had been taught the habits of neatness, order, and cleanliness most thoroughly as regards household work.

"Her attention to personal neatness," says a lady who is my informant, "was very great; her face seemed always as if it were just washed, and with her bright hair neatly combed underneath her snow-white cap, a smooth white apron, and her gown and handkerchief carefully put on, she used to look very comely. After a year or two, she married the servingman, who, as he was retained in his situation, was obliged to take a house as near his place as possible. The cottages in the neighbourhood were of the most wretched kind, mere hovels built of rough stones and covered with ragged thatch; there were few even of these, so there was no choice, and they were obliged to be content with the first that was vacant, which was in the most retired situation. After they had been married about two years, I happened to be walking past one of these miserable cottages, and, as the door was open, I had the curiosity to enter. I found it was the home of the servant I have been describing. But what a change had come over her! Her face was dirty, and her tangled hair hung over her eyes. Her cap, though of good materials, was ill washed and slovenly put on. Her whole dress, though apparently good and serviceable, was very untidy, and looked dirty and slatternly; everything indeed about her seemed wretched and

neglected (except her little child), and she appeared very discontented. She seemed aware of the change there must be in her appearance since I had last seen her, for she immediately began to complain of her house. The wet came in at the door of the *only room*, and, when it rained, through every part of the roof also, except just over the hearth-stone; large drops fell upon her as she lay in bed, or as she was working at the window: in short, she had found it impossible to keep things in order, so had gradually ceased to make any exertions. Her condition had been borne down by the condition of the house. Then her husband was dissatisfied with his home and with her; his visits became less frequent, and if he had been a day-labourer, and there had been a beer-shop or a public-house, the preference of that to his home would have been inevitable, and in the one instance would have presented an example of a multitude of cases.

"She was afterwards, however, removed to a new cottage, which was water-tight, and had some conveniences, and was built close to the road, which her former mistress and all her friends must constantly pass along. She soon resumed, in a great degree, her former good habits, but still there was a little of the *dawdle* left about her—the remains of the dispiritedness caused by her former very unfavourable circumstances."

Here, as in most other cases, the internal economy of the houses was primarily affected by the defective internal and surrounding drainage, that produced the damp and wet, and thence the dirt, against which the inmates had ceased to contend. On inquiry of the male labourers in the district, it appeared that almost every third man was subjected to rheumatism; and with them it was evident that the prevalence of damp and marsh miasma from the want of drainage, if it did not necessitate, formed a strong temptation to, the use of ardent spirits. With them, as with the females, the wretched condition of the tenement formed a strong barrier against personal cleanliness and the use of decent clothes.

In the rural districts the very defects of the cottages, which let in the fresh air in spite of all the efforts of the inmates to exclude it, often obviate the effects of the overcrowding and defective ventilation. It has been observed that, while the labouring population of several districts have had no shelter but huts similar to those described by Dr. Gilly as the habitations of the border peasantry, which afforded a free passage for currents of air, they were not subject to fevers, though they were to rheumatism; but when, through the good intentions of the proprietors, such habitations were provided as were deemed more comfortable from excluding the weather effectually, but which from the neglect of ventilation afforded recesses for stagnating air, and impurities which they had not the means or had not a sufficient love of cleanliness to remove, though rheumatism was excluded, febrile infection was generated. In the towns the access of the wind is impeded by the closeness of the surrounding habitations, and the internal construction of the dwellings tends to exclude the air still more effectually. Were the closed windows opened, it would frequently be only to admit a worse compound, the air from neglected privies, and the miasma from the wet and undrained court or street.

The close pent-up air in these abodes has, undoubtedly, a depressing effect on the nervous energies, and this again, with the uneducated, and indeed with many of the educated workpeople, has an effect on the moral habits by acting as a strong and often irresistible provocative to the use of fermented liquors and ardent spirits. Much may be due to the incitement of association of greater numbers of people, but it is a common fact that the same workpeople indulge more in drink

when living in the close courts and lanes of the town than when living in the country, and that the residence in the different places is attended with a difference of effects similar to those described in respect to the tailors working in crowded rooms in towns and the tailors working separately or in the country. The workpeople who have fallen into habits of drinking strenuously allege the impossibility of avoiding the practice in such places; they do, however, drink in greater quantities in such places, and give increased effect to the noxious miasma by which they are surrounded.

Michaelmas Goose.—There is an old custom still in use among us, of having a roast goose to dinner on Michaelmas Day. "Goose-intentos," as Blount tells us, is a word used in Lancashire, where "the husbandmen claim it as a due to have a goose-intentos on the sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost; which custom took origin from the last word of the old church-prayer of that day:—'Tua, nos quæsumus, Domine, gratia semper præveniat et sequatur; ac bonis operibus jugiter præstet esse *intentos*.' The common people very humorously mistake it for a goose with *ten toes*." This is by no means satisfactory. Beckwith, in his new edition of the 'Jocular Tenures,' p. 223, says upon it,— "But, besides that the sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, or after Trinity rather, being moveable, and seldom falling upon Michaelmas Day, which is an immoveable feast, the service for that day could very rarely be used at Michaelmas, there does not appear to be the most distant allusion to a goose in the words of that prayer. Probably no other reason can be given for this custom but that Michaelmas Day was a great festival, and geese at that time most plentiful." In Denmark, where the harvest is later, every family has a roasted goose for supper on St. Martin's Eve. "Among other services (in this country), John de la Hay was bound to render to William Barnaby, lord of Lastres, in the county of Hereford, for a parcel of the demesne lands, one goose fit for the lord's dinner on the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel; and this, as early as the tenth year of King Edward the Fourth." Mr. Douce says,— "I have somewhere seen the following reasons for eating geese on Michaelmas Day, viz. that Queen Elizabeth received the news of the defeat of the Spanish Armada whilst she was eating a goose on Michaelmas Day, and that in commemoration of that event she ever afterwards on that day dined on a goose." But this appears rather to be a strong proof that the custom prevailed even at court in Queen Elizabeth's time. We have just seen that it was in use in the tenth year of King Edward IV. The subsequent shows it to have been in practice in Queen Elizabeth's reign before the event of the Spanish defeat. In the Posies of George Gascoigne, Esq., 4to. 1575, 'Flowers,' p. 40, is the following passage:—

"And when the tenautes come to paie their quarter's rent,
They bring some fowle at Midsummer, a dish of fish in
Lent;
At Christmasse a capon, at *Michaelmas* a GOOSE,
And somewhat else at New-yere's tide, for *fear* their lease
flie loose."

A pleasant writer in the periodical paper called 'The World,' No. 10 (if I mistake not, the late Lord Orford), remarking on the effects of the alteration of the style, tells us,— "When the reformation of the calendar was in agitation, to the great disgust of many worthy persons, who urged how great the harmony was in the old establishment between the holidays and their attributes (if I may call them so), and what confusion would follow if MICHAELMAS DAY, for instance, was not to be celebrated when *stubble-geese* are in their highest perfection; it was replied, that such a propriety was merely imaginary, and would be lost of itself, even without any alteration of the calendar by authority; for if the errors in it were suffered to go on, they would, in a certain number of years, produce such a variation, that we should be mourning for good King Charles on a false 30th of January, at a time when our ancestors used to be tumbling over head and heels in Greenwich Park in honour of Whitsuntide; and at length be choosing king and queen for Twelfth-night when we ought to be admiring 'The London Prentice' at Bartholomew Fair." It is a popular saying, "If you eat goose on Michaelmas Day, you will never want money all the year round." Geese are eaten by ploughmen at harvest-home.—*Brand's Popular Antiquities, new edit. by Sir H. Ellis.*