MAURITIUS, 1886.

Essay on the Colonial and Indian Exhibition.

(By Thomas C. Watkins.)

This island, with the adjacent island of Bourbon, was discovered by the Portuguese under the command of Mascarenhas in 1505, and they were named the Mascarenhas Islands; but though the Portuguese took possession of the Mauritius in 1545, they appear not to have formed any settlement on it. The Dutch took possession of and surveyed it in 1598, and called it Mauritius, in honor of Maurice, Stadtholder of the Republic of the Netherlands. They did not settle there, however, until they had established a settlement at the Cape in 1640, about which time they founded a settlement on this island also. They abandoned their hold of it in 1708. From which time until 1715 it was inhabited only by a few negroes, who had been brought there as slaves, and had run away from their masters and had concealed themselves in the forests on the mountains. The French took possession of the island in 1715, founded a settlement at Port West, and named the island Isle de France. They held undisturbed possession of it until 1810, when it was taken from them by the British, to whom it was allotted as a permanent possession by the Congress of the Representatives of Europe, when they conferred the sovereignty of Elba on Napoleon Bonaparte, making him Emperor of a pretty island in the Danube, who was used to have the mightiest sovereigns of Europe to tremble at his frown—to accept their kingdoms or their empires from him on whatever conditions le Grande Monarche wished to impose. The British gave the island its former Dutch name of Mauritius. It is situated in the Indian Ocean, between 19° 45 min. and 20° 33 min. south latitude and 56° and 57° east longitude. From north to south (that is from Cap Malheureaux to the Bay of Lemon) its length is about thirty-six miles, and its extreme width from Point du Diable to the northern extremity of the Plaine aux Sables (or Plain of Sands) is nearly twenty-seven miles, though the general width is not much over eighteen miles. The circumference is about 124 miles. It is nearly of equal extent with the county of Worcester, the area being about 700 square miles. It is surrounded by a coral reef, running nearly parallel to the shores at from one to two furlongs therefrom. These shoals are mostly dry at low water. There are eleven gaps in these reefs, and ships of moderate burden can sail through the most of these breaks on up to the shore in high water. The water between the reefs and the shores being less affected by storms, being much smoother than the sea, affords easy communication all round the coast, which is a very important matter to the inhabitants, as the shore is very steep in many places and rises suddenly to a considerable elevation quite close to the water's edge, which is especially the case along the western coast. Along the eastern coast the surface in general is pretty level from Port Souillac to Grand Port, and from the latter to Port Louis, except just in close proximity to each of those places.

THE INTERIOR OF THE ISLAND

is very rough and uneven, rising frequently into lofty isolated hills, except between Cape Brabant and Port Souillac, where the hills form a chain, which runs from Mount Peter Botte to Carmoniere Point. Some of the hills tower aloft to a considerable height, especially the Brabant Mountains near Cape Brabant, and the Bamboo ridge near Grand Port, which rise to about 3,000 feet above the level of the surrounding sea. The origin of the island is undoubtedly volcanic, as shown by the irregularity of the surface and the presence of lava, pumice stone and other productions of volcanic force. In the mountains at the back of Port Souillac and Grand Port there is a small lake, which is thought to have been the crater of an extinct volcano. There are large numbers of loose rocks covering the ground, from the size of a cricket ball up to more than a ton weight, which are riddled with small holes. The soil is shallow and very dry, owing to the great drought which prevails, making the land rather barren and unfruitful. The soil consists chiefly of a lumpy reddish mould, which appears to be impregnated with oxide of iron, which on pressure crumbles to dust in a person's hand. The rainy season lasts from November to March or April. The rain pours down in torrents for several hours, accompanied by thunder and lightning. Hurricanes as terrific as those of the West Indies visit the island sometimes during the rainy season. These storms do not occur with regularity, but only once in from one to five years. During this season the wind changes frequently, and sometimes makes the tour of the horizon in a short time. In the dry season the wind generally blows from the southeast. It is strong during the day, but calm in the night. During June, July and August showers are frequent, but they last only a short time. The island is traversed by numerous water courses, which flow down in all directions from their common centres; but they are only filled during the rainy season, when they form numerous cataracts, and wear deep gullies down the sides of the mountains. During the dry season the rain is soon evaporated by the heat of the sun. The mean annual temperature is about 76° Fahrenheit. The annual rainfall may be set down at an average of thirty-eight to forty inches. The island was formerly covered with forests, and even now large wooded districts remain as ornaments around the plantations; and the hill country is covered with trees, but there is no timber suitable for shipbuilding. The ebony wood is inferior in quality, but the iron wood and red wood are valuable. The sago and cocoanut palms are common, as are also tamarind trees, mangroves and bamboos. Yams, cassava or manioc, which was imported from South America, and Indian corn, are cultivated as articles of food, as well as plantains, bananas and melons, also several European vegetables, as asparagus, spinach, artichokes, cabbages and peas. Wheat and rice are raised in small quantities, and both articles are imported; also wheat from the Cape of Good Hope and rice from Madagascar. They also cultivate mangoes, shaddocks and pine-apples. Oranges, grapes, peaches and apples do not do well, and their qualities are inferior. The French introduced the spice-trees of the Indian Islands, but they did not succeed well; even the pepper-vine remained barren; the clove was the only spice which succeeded. They cultivated the sugar-cane, indigo, coffee and cotton, but since the British took possession of the island all these branches of agriculture are almost abandoned, with the exception of sugar, the cultivation of which has increased rapidly. In 1830 more than 720,000 hundred weights were exported, and the business was prosperous until lately, when over-production over the world reduced the prices of sugars to about one-fourth of their value thirty years ago. There are very few horses, as they are not bred in the island to any extent.

MULES AND ASSES

are more numerous, and are used principally for the saddle, being more sure-footed in that rough and stony soil, where, in common with most Asiatics, their roads are to a considerable extent in quite a primitive state, not much better than bridle paths. Black cattle are scarce, for want of good pasture, as it does not pay to keep them and import fodder for them. Cattle are imported in great quantities from Madagascar; goats and sheep are kept in large numbers; hogs are very numerous, and form a large portion of the food of the people. The forests are the home of a considerable number of wild hogs and deer. Fish abound along the coast; the turtle has almost entirely disappeared from the island, but large numbers of them frequent the small sandy islets situated to the northwest of Mauritius, and afford a home to an abundance of fine large ones, which deposit their eggs in the sand of those islets, where they are hatched out by the warmth of the sun. There are enormous quantities of rats, locusts and ants, which are very destructive to the crops and to the produce in the storehouses. The population amounts to about 100,000; of which number 75,000 were negro slaves, or their descendants, originally brought from Madagascar and the eastern coast of Africa. The balance of 25,000 consist of over 15,000 colored inhabitants, amongst whom are Malays, fishermen from the coast of Malabar, Lascars and Chinese. The latter were brought over by the planters, and employed in the cultivation of the sugar cane, instead of the negroes, when the last-named were slaves. The number of whites amount to about 9,000 individuals, the greater part of whom are descendants of French families, whose progenitors settled there when the island was a French colony, and they still speak the French language. Port Louis, the capital and only town of the island, is situated near the northwestern extremity, on a small bay called Port Northwest, or Port Louis. This bay is a narrow inlet of the sea, a little over a mile in length, and about 500 yards wide. A reef runs out from its mouth, passing close to a small island called Tounelier Island, which is a coral rock, near which ships usually anchor, as the wind blows out of the harbor constantly. The harbor is sufficiently capacious for a dozen men-of-war and fifty merchant ships, and, during the fine season, perfectly safe. The capital (Port Louis) is situated at the extreme southwestern corner of the bay. The streets are straight, but not paved; the principal street runs parallel to the shore of the bay. The houses are built of wood, with only one floor. The town contains 26,000 inhabitants, of whom 1,570 were formerly slaves, or are the descendants of slaves; there are about 4,000 whites, and they represent various Oriental nationalities; one of the suburbs about 3,000 Malabar fishermen; and another nearly 7,500 negroes. There is a library containing over 60,000 volumes, mostly French books; a good botanical garden, and docks for the repair of vessels. Port Grand is situated on the windward coast, although large, the entrance being narrowed by several shoals. It can only be entered or left during a fair wind, by sailing vessels, as it is impossible to tack; therefore it is not much frequented except by steamers occasionally. Mauritius has commercial relations with Surat, Batavia, Bombay, Muscat, the Persian and Arabian Gulfs, the western coast of Africa, the Cape and Madagascar, but a large proportion of its produce goes to England. Sugar, coffee, cloves, indigo and some timber are exported to England; and in return the colony receives silk, woolen and cotton fabrics, wine, oil, hats, iron and steel utensils, and several articles of commerce. Arabia and Persia are supplied with sugar from Mauritius, and send back in return dried fruits and a few other articles. Madagascar sends her cattle and rice to Mauritius, and receives in return manufactured goods. Mauritius and its dependent small islands are distinguished for their

VALUABLE TIMBER,

which is much used for ship and house building and for making agricultural implements and all such articles as require great strength and toughness. The *Tatamaca blanc* is a large tree, with tough, curly grained wood; the seeds yield a valuable oil, and the gum that issues from the trunk is the tatamaca resin of commerce. The *Colophane Botard* is a small tree about twenty feet in height, the wood of which is used largely for palisades, and rafters in building shanties, and in fencing gardens, lawns, etc. The *Bois de Nefle* is a middle-sized tree, the timber of which planks, flooring and the boards for the insides of houses are made. It will not bear moisture. The *Mokak* is a tree which attains a large size, the wood is hard, durable, smooth, dark colored, takes an excellent polish and is very much used for shingles, frames of houses, boards for flooring, ship building, cabinet ware, etc. The *Jamposa* tree has strong, tough, elastic wood, resembling British ash in color and grain. It is used for handles of tools and for making charcoal. It is a small tree. The *Bois Loustean* is a small tree, the timber of which is used for palisades, and small timbers in house and shanty building. The *Bois Colophane* attains a great size, often measuring six feet in diameter. Canoes are frequently hollowed out of its trunk. *Cinnamom* is a small tree, the timber of which is little used. It is yellow, close grained, and the roots yield an excellent yellow dye. The *Gayavier fleur arbre* is an ornamental tree, very beautiful in appearance. The timber is tough and very durable under water. It is much used by the natives for building purposes, and for boat building, and in the manufacture of gun carriages, in felloes and hubs for carts, waggons and carriages, binders, ammunition box boards, etc. It is prized for fittings in boats, hulls of canoes, house posts, planking, beams and various other uses. The *Bois Canelle* is a middle-sized tree, the wood is even-grained, smooth, dark colored, finely veined, polishes well and is much prized by cabinet makers. The *Bois Sandal* is a large tree, highly valued by turners, house carpenters and wheelwrights; it takes a fine polish and is odoriferous, resembling sandalwood. The *Sang Dragon* is a large tree, very handsome, the timber is red, very valuable and beautiful. It is used for gun carriages, furniture and musical instruments. The *Bois d'ebene* tree yields the best kind of ebony, which usually turns black, but is sometimes streaked with yellow or brown. It is very heavy, close and even grained, and takes a high polish. It is used for inlaying, ornamental turnery and sometimes for furniture, canes, etc. The *Bois noir, la graine rouge*, is a large tree, the timber of which when first cut resembles the red sandals, has a strong, pleasant smell, is stiff, hard, strong, durable, tolerably coarse and even grained, takes a good polish, is of a beautiful red color, with streaks of a darker shade, which turn purple and resemble rosewood. The *Lilas de l'Inde* is a charming ornamental tree. The wood of the older trees is handsomely marked. It is rather durable and is used for furniture. There were specimens of seventy varieties of different species of trees shown in the court of Mauritius, most of which were very useful for the numerous purposes of

CIVILIZED AND BARBAROUS LIFE.

In the Botanical Gardens there was a most magnificent display of the flora and other productions of that far-off land. A great variety of plants, the fibres of which are used for making cloth and ropes, were exhibited. Tobacco, soap, cocoanuts, paper pulp made of megasse (a native fibre), india rubber tree, gum and a variety of articles made of the rubber, gutta-percha, fine samples of wheat, arrowroot, manioc flour, banana flour, sweet potatoes, cloves, starch, vanilla, coffee, nutmegs, mace, jams and jellies, eau-de-cologne, ink, sugars of various kinds and qualities, syrup, mineral waters, turtle oil, cinchona and other barks in different stages of preparation. A collection of minerals, plants, natural history, skeletons of the dodo bird, stuffed specimens of the fauna of the island, stags' heads, ostrich feathers and eggs, emu eggs and feathers, tortoise shell, coco-de-mer, shrimps, shells, ornamental seeds, Job's tears and bois noir-rouge. Rum and other liquors were also exhibited, as if to show the world that not one, even of the most remote colonies of Britain, has escaped the foul stigma of licensing the lazy and cruel part of their people to prey upon the young and inexperienced portion there and, like the vampires, they suck their blood in the night, entice them into their saloons, treat them to their distilled damnation, fire their brains with madness, imbrute them; yea, degrade them lower than the brutes—take their last dollar and send them off to beat their wives and children; to steal, to murder, to fill our jails, our penitentiaries, our lunatic asylums, to go to the gallows; to fill our cemeteries with drunkards' graves and to fill hell with their victims. O, that the numberless army of drunkards and those who only drink for company's sake, but are constantly, yet even to themselves imperceptibly, creating an appetite, a burning thirst, which, if they do not flee from the drunkard's haunts, will soon sink them into misery, shame, disgrace, early death, a drunkard's grave and eternal woe; O, that they, together with those who entice them to drink, may soon have their eyes opened to see the fearful precipice on the brink of which they are standing with unsteady steps, and resolve, in the name of God and by His strength, that they will never touch, taste, handle, buy or sell the accursed thing any more during their futures lives, and earnestly and conscientiously keep their pledge for the rest of their days.

THE SCYCHELLES ISLANDS,

which probably are not very well known by many, are an important appendage to Mauritius. The group is situated in the Eastern seas, a few degrees south of the equator, in latitude 3 degrees 31 minutes to 5 degrees 45 minutes south, and in longitude 53 degrees 15 minutes to 56 degrees 10 minutes east. They are exceedingly fertile, and possess great natural beauty. They were discovered by the Portuguese, afterwards the French held possession of them until 1814, when they were ceded to Great Britain by the Congress of Paris. They now form a very interesting portion of Her Majesty's vast possessions in the East. An interesting account of these islands has been published by Mr. Estridge entitled "Six years in Scychelles," where he resided at Mahe, the chief of the group. He has labored hard to gather together the chief objects of interest found in these islands, comprising many scarcely ever suspected to have existed there. Amongst the numerous articles placed on exhibition by this gentleman are specimens of the fruit of the coco-de-mer (a species of palm tree which grows only in these islands), and include a rare exhibition of that product in its treble development, and also some eccentric growths of the common cocoanut. There are also examples of the curious insect called the "walking leaf," of the Mille Patte, or thousand footed worm, and of a variety of scorpions, frogs and snakes. There were a large number of skinned and stuffed fish, amongst which were some very singular crabs, raytails and star fish There was a singular looking hawk, of which even the British museum, in the immensity of its collections, cannot boast of a representative. Some fine

FLYING FOXES,

or enormous bats, were unique in appearance. The geological formations of the islands were represented by good specimens of black and amethystine quartz, nactrite and other stone. A charming specimen of a coral garden was also exhibited. Several handsome sketches of fruits, flowers, etc., were very interesting. There was a large variety of specimens of timbers, tobacco, soap, vanilla, cloves, gum kin co coa beans, kapok, chocolate, essential oils, dried papaw juice, raphia seed, leaf and tree.

THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS AND PROTECTED MALAY STATES.

This little colony includes the island of Singapore, situated to the south of the Malay Peninsula; Penang, an island now known as Prince of Wales Island, on the west coast of that peninsula, and a strip of land opposite, named Province Wellesley; the Dindings, another group of islands with a piece of land along the coast of the mainland to the south of Penang; and Malacca, lying between the Dindings and Singapore. Singapore has an area of 206 square miles, Penang 107, Province Wellesley 207, Malacca 659, the Dindings, including the Island of Pankor, about 206 square miles. Malacca was taken possession of by the Portuguese in 1511, and remained in their hands until 1641, when it was taken by the Netherlands and held by them until 1795, when it fell under the power of Great Britain, but it was restored to the Dutch in 1818 by a treaty with Holland, dated March 17th, 1824. Malacca was again ceded to Great Britain in exchange for Bencoolen in Sumatra, when it was stipulated that the British should not attempt to form any settlement in Sumatra, nor the Dutch in the Malay peninsula. Penang was ceded to Great Britain in 1785 by the Rajah of Kedah. Province Wellesley was also acquired from the Rajah a few years later to enable the authorities to put down the prevailing piracy which caused great havoc amongst the European merchantmen. This latter territory is bounded by the Muda River, and by a line ten miles south of the Kryan River. Penang was the seat of Government of the Straits Settlements until 1832, since which date it has been carried on at Singapore. The Dindings were ceded to the colony by treaty in 1874. The chief productions of the peninsula consist of tin, sugar, spices, rice, tapioca, sago, hides, horns, gum, coffee, tobacco, but several of these productions are purchased from their neighbors, and are not grown in the colony. Trade is increasing fast, as will be evident by a comparison of the united imports and exports of the years 1859-60 and 1884. These were: Singapore in the former period, £10,371,300; in the latter year, £25,931,930; Penang, £3,530,000 against £12,066,267 in 1884, and Malacca's trade was £928,000 in the former year and £1,079,612 in the latter, making the united volume of trade for the whole colony £14,829,300 in 1859-60 and £39,077,809 in 1884. The Straits ports are entirely free from import and export duties. The total population in 1881 was 423,384 against 307,957 in 1871 and 273,000 in 1866. The nationalities were greatly mixed as follows: Singapore had 2,769 Europeans, 22,155 Malays, 86,766 Chinese and 12,058 natives of India. Penang was represented by 612 Europeans, 21,772 Malays, 45,135 Chinese and 15,730 natives of India. Province Wellesley had 76 Europeans, 58,723 Malays, 21,637 Chinese and 10,616 natives of India. The nationalities in Malacca were 40 Europeans, 67,513 Malays, 19,741 Chinese and 1,891 natives of India. Dindings had only two Europeans, 1,847 Malays, 466 Chinese and 37 natives of India.

THE REVENUE OF THE COLONY

is derived from land licenses, stamp duties, judicial fines, etc. The total revenue in 1868 was £276,612, and the expenditure £254,391. In 1884 the revenue had risen to £629,921, and the expenditure to £580,147. The colony has important political relations with the neighboring Malay countries, three of which are under British protection, and have contributed their respective shares to this great exhibition of Britain's offspring from every climate, from every country. The three protected States are Perak, Selangor and Sungai Ujong, which extend from the border of Province Wellesley to that of Malacca. They are governed by their native rulers, acting with the advice and aid of a British Resident, who is appointed by the British Government, and is under the control of the Governor of the Straits Settlements. Each State has its staff of European and native officers. Of the three States, Perak, with an extent of 7,949 square miles of territory, and a population of 118,000 people, is the most important. A Resident was appointed to Perak in 1874, under the Treaty of Pankro, and the State has made rapid progress since. The revenue has risen from £64,728 in 1877 to £238,749 in 1884; life and property are secure; a railway connecting Theripeng (the chief town) with the sea and a complete system of roads and telegraph lines have been constructed, bringing the different parts of the State, which previous to 1874 were only connected by rivers, into close intercommunication. Mining is the chief industry of the State. Agriculture has not been much developed yet. The soil is rich, and suitable for the production of nearly all kinds of tropical plants, and only requires capital to make it yield abundantly. Tapioca, pepper, rice, sugar, coffee and tea have all been successfully grown. Liberal land laws have been made by the State Government. Amongst the exhibits sent by this State is a full-sized Malay house, which has been erected in the Exhibition by Malay carpenters, and is built and furnished entirely with materials sent for the purpose, and in accordance with native customs. The State of Selangor comprises about 3,000 square miles. It lies south of Perak, the dividing line between them being the Barnam River. This State is chiefly dependent upon tin mining for prosperity, though small plantations of coffee, cacao and pepper have been established, and are doing well in many parts of the State. A railway twenty-two miles long connects Kwala Lumpor, the capital, with the sea. The revenue of 1876 was £32,246, and that of 1883 amounted to £75,110. The State contains a population of 46,568 persons. The area of Sungai Ujong is 660 square miles. It is situated to the south of Selangor, and northwest of Malacca. The population consists of about 14,000 people, and the revenue in 1884 was £20,196. Mining was largely carried on formerly, but for the last few years agricultural pursuits have taken the place of mining to a large extent; Arabian coffee and cinchona are grown extensively on the hills, and tapioca, Liberian coffee, cacao and pepper in the lowlands, are successfully cultivated. This colony and the Protected States made a most interesting exhibit of their various products, a few of which we name below: Model of a street in Singapore, model of a sea, with a native craft on it, model of a Chinese temple, models of native boats, a curious collection of native weapons, fishing apparatus, etc., musical instruments, a full sized jinricksha with a coolie to draw it. Opium smoking implements, blow tubes, with spears and shields attached, quiver containing poisoned darts used by the aborigines, or with tribes of the Malay Peninsula.

COUNTERFEITING INSTRUMENTS USED BY THE CHINESE

in Singapore for counterfeiting coin, water colors and drawings of fruits indigenous to the colony. Chinese state presentation umbrella. Photographs of scenery in the Straits settlements. Models of animals used by Chinese in lotteries, coins, bank notes and tokens now used in Penang. Albums representing Penang scenery and native life. Musical instruments used by aboriginal tribes of Malacca, model of a Malay Raja's state house, with figures showing wedding ceremony in progress. Collections of old and modern measures. Books on the meteorology of the Straits Settlements, native drugs, English and Malay vocabulary books printed and published in Singapore. Chinese drugs, native medicinal roots. Model of a Malay Rajah's reception house, with automaton figures showing wedding ceremony in progress, models of Malay household utensils, toys, games, etc., comprising 200 specimens; models of Malay houses with walls of bertram work, of nipah palm and of bamboo; carved wood work for doorway of Malay house, Malay bed hangings, Chinese bed and hangings; rattan articles in domestic use; model of Malacca house, models of Chinese furniture comprising forty eight different kinds of articles, 288 specimens of articles for domestic use, and toys and games; Chinese gold thread, scarfs used on great occasions; full dresses and ordinary dresses worn by Arabs and Chinese in this colony. Collections of indigenous fish, pheasants, snakes, butterflies, reptiles, fishing apparatus, sixty specimens of stuffed animals and birds, 68 bottles of preserved fish and reptiles; agricultural implements, thatches, gutta percha, timbers, spices, dried plants, sheets, seeds, gums, cordage, gambier and rattan, bertram plait work, Malacca walking sticks; food products, condiments, preserved fruits, sugar, tea, padi or rice, arrowroot, cocoanut, palm sugar, cigars and cigarettes, sago, honey, beetle nut varnish, essential oils, hair dye fibre, bark for tanning, bricks, indigo, mangroves, tiles, tin ore, plumbago and limestone, Malay and aboriginal weapons, Chinese and Malay weights and measures, resins, coffee, buffalo baskets or paniers, buffalo bells and carts, Malay elephant goads, baskets, hoods and bells, ferns, Malay river boats and bamboo rafts, Malay dwelling houses, snares and traps, Malay dresses of silk and gold thread; looms and spinning appliances, bees' wax, edible birds' nests, pottery, Malay silverware and weapons, gold bearing tin sand, Malay fishing boats and native tools, native foot balls, spurs used by Malays in cock-fighting, poisoned arrows and quivers used by the Sakeis, curtains made of attap leaves, model of a Sakei house, native hats, cloth made of bark by the Sakeis, sleeping mats, sandals, gold and tin ornaments, elephant's head shot in Selangor, bison's head from Malay, sweetmeats, sugar cane juice, tin, shells, bat guano, water wheel, drugs, cinchona bark, rum and spirits. Alas! alas! Rum, spirits, alcohol, introduced everywhere Britain's sons plant their feet. Could the British nation see the fearful crimes they are the direct authors of? Could they see the raving maniacs in our insane asylums? Could they see the ragged, starving children, the miserable, gaunt, thinly-clad, heart-broken wives, the bright eyes of youth dull and sunken in their sockets, the hopeful, brave spirits of early wedded life crushed to death and buried in the deepest anguish, misery and woe, the imbruted husband, in early days of his accelerated fall, enticed into the taverns and saloons to drink that distilled damnation which at first elevates man and makes him feel rich and great, but a deeper draught drowns his reason, corrupts his mind, implants disease in his system, makes him cruel to his wretched wife and children, to whom he is a terror? Turned out of every bar-room, ordered away from every saloon, the wretched victim of intemperance goes home and takes the last chair, the last morsel of food, even the last blanket, and leaves his miserable wife and children to perish with hunger and cold, while he goes forth to pledge the last remnant of comfort which he has just stolen or torn away from his broken-hearted wife to the saloon or hotel keeper for the accursed poison, which is fast sinking him into his grave—the dark, hopeless, drunkard's grave. Every glass of alcoholic liquor which a man or woman drinks has an influence to lead them to desire more when the excitement caused by that glass dies away—hence the danger of taking the first glass. With the brightest and most gifted the descent from position, rank and respectability is frequently very rapid, and often ending in degradation and infamy. The once happy wife, murdered by inches, dies and leaves helpless orphans to be cared for by the charitable, or to become the thieves and vagabonds and prostitutes of society. The wretched father, only the semblance of a man, craving for whiskey, commits theft to get money to buy the poison, is arrested and goes to jail, where he dies, the wretched victim of the saloon-keeper.

The only woman cab driver in England has just died. Visitors to Epping Forest will recall, as one of the peculiar institutions of that vicinity, the female Jehu, who for many years wore conspicuously the badge of a driver, and held the reins in skilful competition with the men, who, no doubt, vociferously denounced at cab stands and railway stations this demonstration of a woman's rights.

The Naval Lifeboat Board, of London, report that none of the models submitted are suitable as lifeboats for men-of-war.

A gentleman coming down Chenneville street, Montreal, between 10 and 11 o'clock last night witnessed one of the saddest scenes he ever saw. He met an aged woman with a crying baby in her arms, and followed by a little girl who carried a pillow on her head. On inquiring where they were going, the gentleman was informed that the old woman was the grandmother of the two children and was taking the baby to its mother, her daughter, who had been arrested for drunkenness and placed in the cells of the St. George street police station. The little girl had taken a pillow to lay the unfortunate baby on in the cell. It appears that the wretched mother had been out of jail only a few days.