

An account of the malignant fever, which prevailed in the city of New-York, during the autumn of 1805 : Containing, 1. The proceedings of the Board of Health ... : 2. The rise, progress, and decline of the late epidemic : 3. An account of the Marine and Bellevue Hospitals ... : 4. Record of deaths, &c.; &c.; : 5. Opinion of several eminent physicians, respecting the cause of malignant fever ... : 6. The situation of the convicts in the state-prison ... : 7. Desultory observations and reflections. : 8. The various modes of cure ... / by James Hardie.

Contributors

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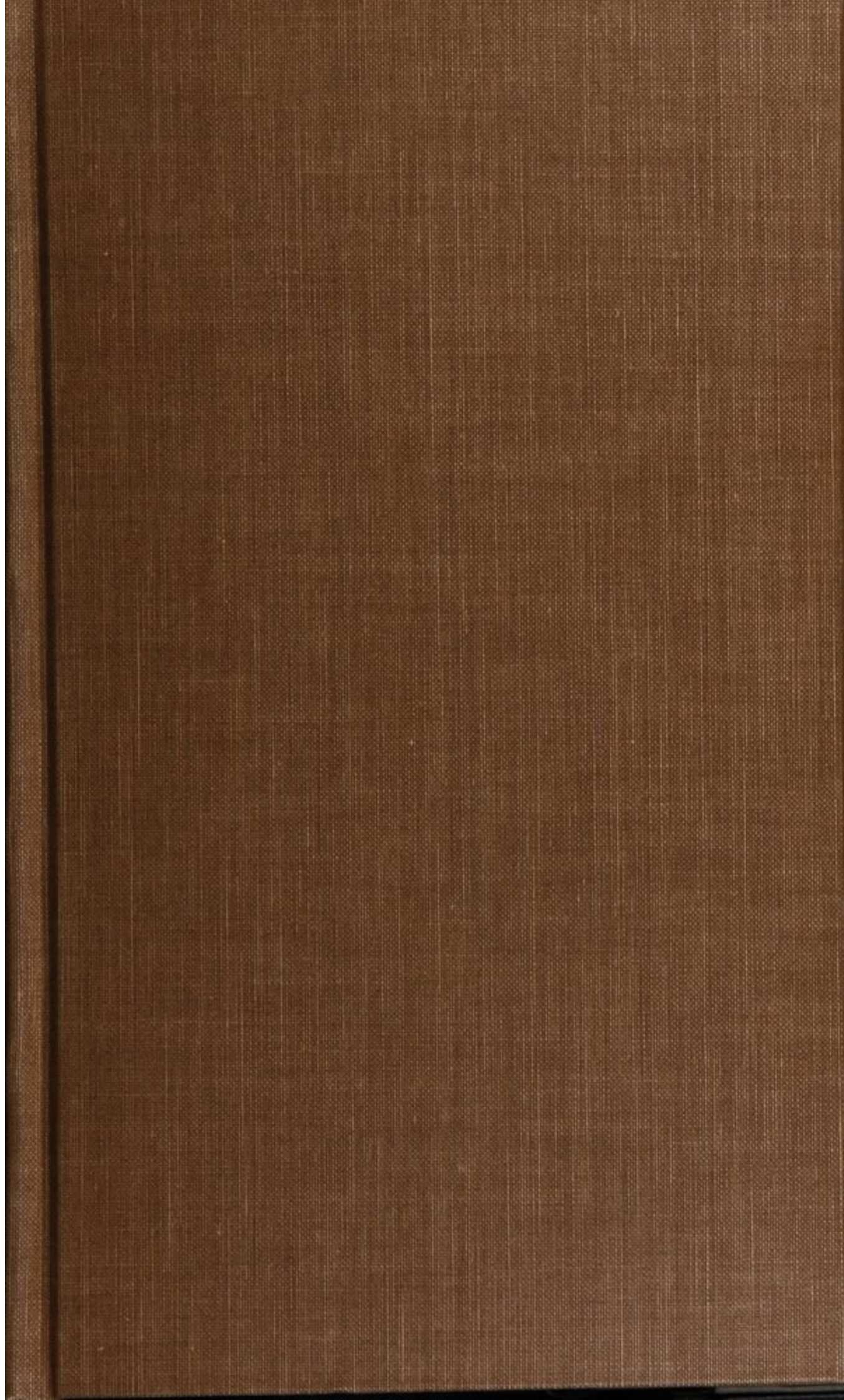
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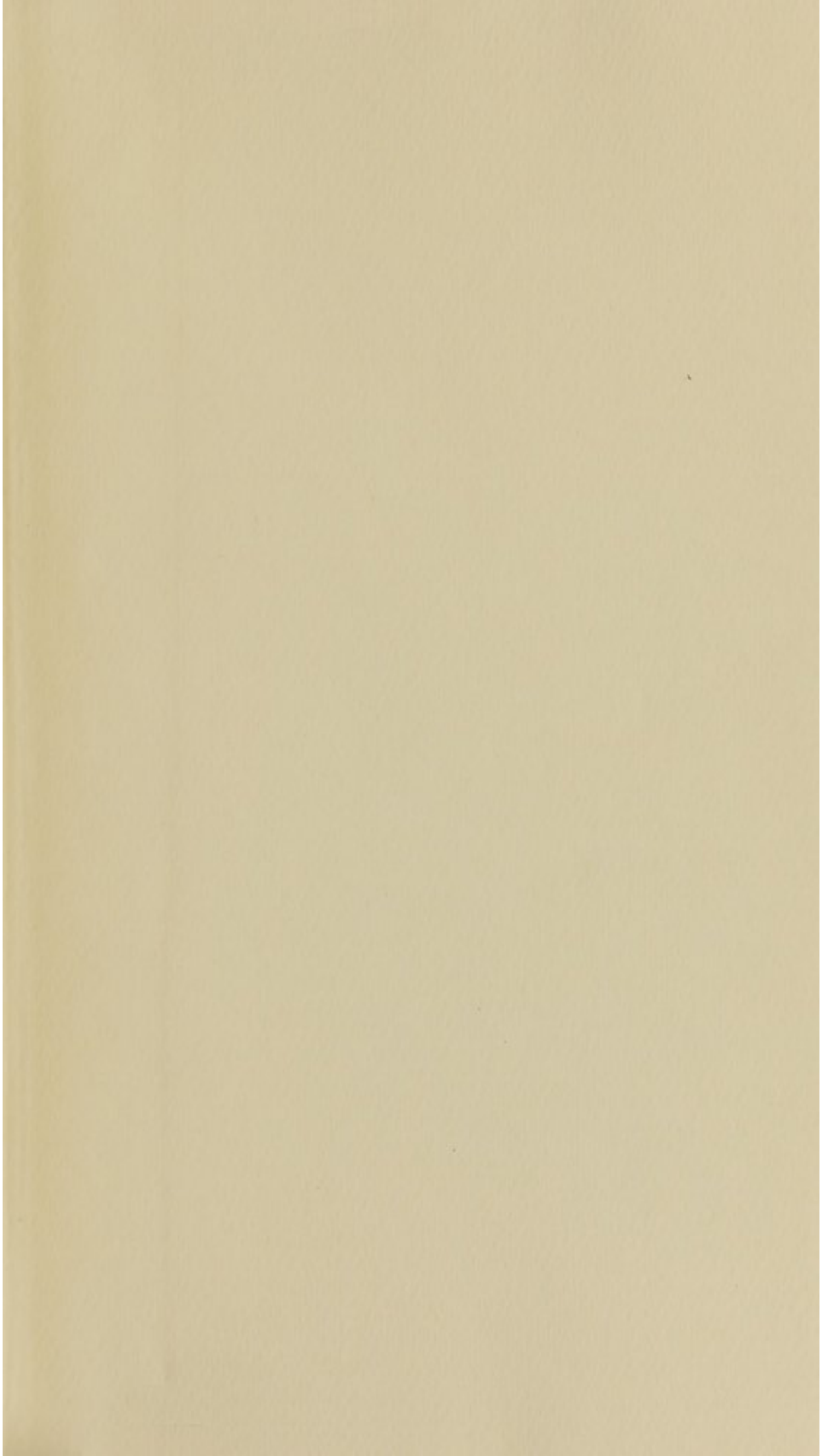


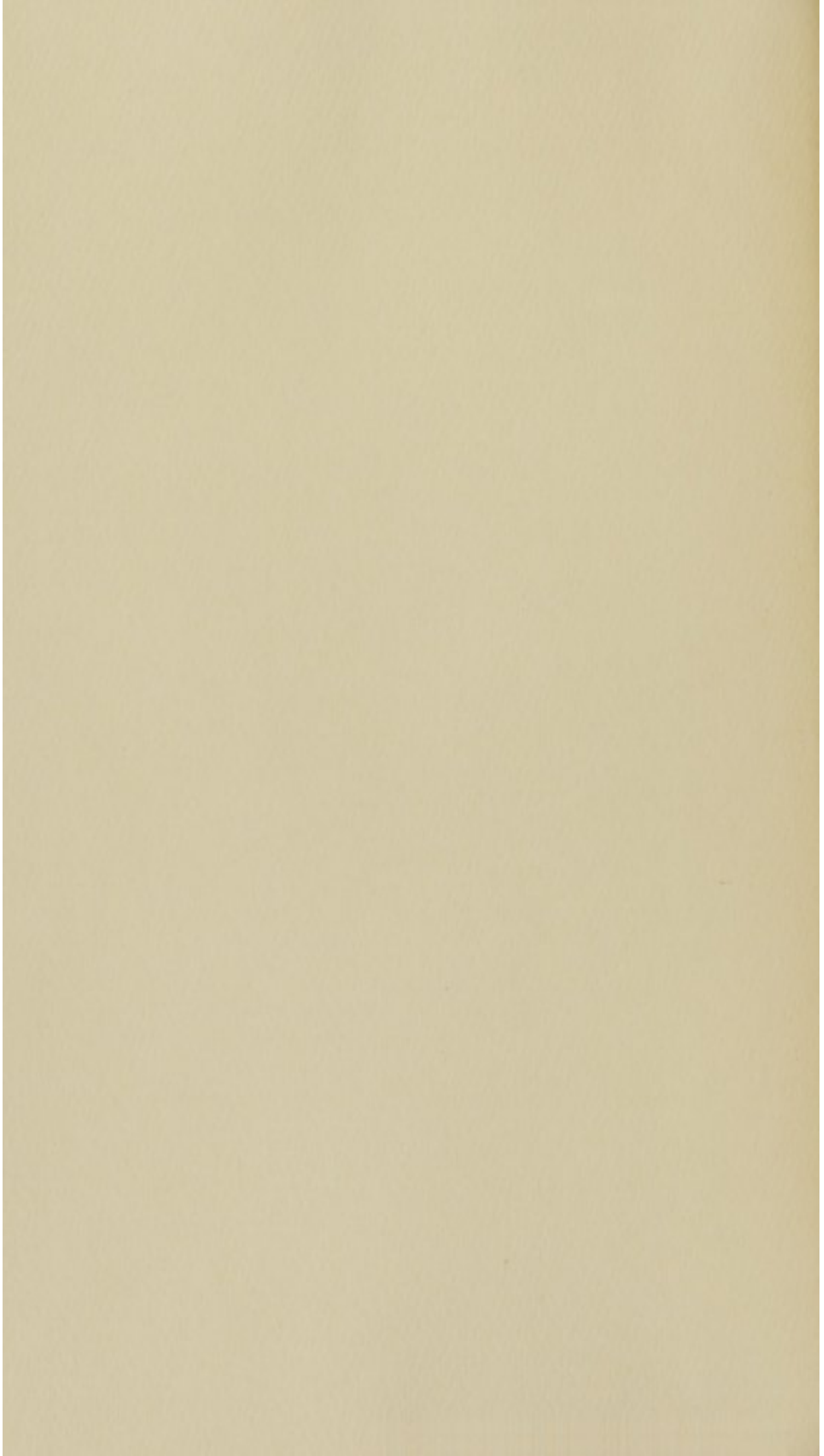
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AN
ACCOUNT
OF THE
Malignant Fever,

WHICH PREVAILED IN THE CITY OF NEW-YORK,

DURING THE AUTUMN OF

1805.

CONTAINING,

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. The Proceedings of the Board of Health, to prevent the introduction of Malignant Fever. | 5. Opinion of several eminent Physicians, respecting the cause of Malignant Fever, in several different parts of the United States. |
| 2. The rise, progress, and decline of the late epidemic. | 6. The situation of the convicts in the State-Prison, with respect to health during the last summer. |
| 3. An Account of the Marine & Bellevue Hospitals, with the number of patients received, and deaths which have occurred, at each of these establishments, during the sickly season. | 7. Desultory observations and reflections. |
| 4. Record of deaths, &c. &c. | 8. The various modes of cure adopted in the Malignant Fever. |

BY JAMES HARDIE,

NEW-YORK:

PRINTED BY SOUTHWICK & HARDCASTLE,

NO. 2, WALL-STREET.

...1805...

ACCOUNT

NLM

DEDICATION.

TO THE HONORABLE DE WITT CLINTON, ESQ.

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW-YORK.

SIR,

It has, from time immemorial, been usual with writers of Books and Pamphlets to dedicate their respective performances to such persons of influence and respectability in society, as they thought they might take such a liberty with, without giving offence. In addresses of this nature, however, so much fulsome adulation is generally heaped upon the patron, as none but a sycophant could write, and a republican could not peruse without disgust. In this manner, I shall not transgress; but the occasion surely requires, nor does delicacy forbid me to record, that, during the last spring and early part of the summer, you, with the greatest vigilance and assiduity, exercised every power vested in you by law, for the purpose of preventing the origin or introduction of malignant fever into our city; that after the commencement of that cruel disorder, you were never absent from your post, as President of the Board of Health, even for a single hour; and that it was your highest ambition in conjunction with the other respectable members of that body to use your utmost exertions in bringing about such measures, as seemed best calculated to mitigate the distresses of the poor and afflicted, to secure the property of the citizens and to maintain the peace and tranquility of this great metropolis; and that your efforts to accomplish objects of such vast importance to the community were crowned with a success, which the most sanguine could not have expected is so well known, that even your political opponents forgetting the distinction of party, cheerfully coincide in opinion with your friends, that

you acted in such a manner as to merit the honourable
appellation of *FATHER OF THE CITY*.

That you may long, continue to fill a distinguish-
ed station in which you may have it in your power to
promote the interest of your constituents, and receive the
patriot's best reward, the approbation of your country-
men, is the sincere wish of

Sir,

Your much obliged,

most obedient, and

very humble servant,

JAMES HARDIE.

NEW-YORK, December 1805.

PREFACE.

THE Malignant Fever, which has of late years, been so prevalent, in different parts of the United States, has unfortunately been the cause of more disputes between physicians of respectability, than any other disease which has afflicted the human species, within the last century.

Although the great question, *whether the disease is imported from abroad and contagious, or of local origin, and non-contagious*, has been agitated, for many years, amongst practitioners in the West-India islands, and in the southern parts of Europe; yet, if I am rightly informed, it did not become the subject of much discussion, amongst medical gentlemen in this country, till the autumn of 1793, when the city of Philadelphia was afflicted with a Pestilential Fever, which, in respect to its mortality, has never been equalled by any *endemic or epidemic*, which has since that time appeared, in any port or place of the United States. Upon the close of that calamity, various publications appeared in Philadelphia, written by gentlemen highly respected for their literary and professional abilities, some of whom espoused one side of the question, and some the other; and since that period, a vast number of pamphlets and several volumes upon the same controversy, have issued from the press in many parts of the United States. Many excellent essays, have, likewise, appeared in our public prints, written with a view to elucidate the subject, but still, it is to be regretted, that the point remains unsettled, and our citizens are in general as much in the dark, respecting the cause and origin of pestilence as ever.

It is not because I have been greatly conversant amongst the sick in every malignant fever, with which our city has been afflicted since the year 1798, and that during these years I have thought and conversed much with intelligent men upon the subject, that I have been induced to submit the following sheets to the public. Indeed, since the first, and most eminent physicians in America, notwithstanding all their exertions, have not been able to satisfy their fellow citizens with respect to the origin or nature of the disease, it would certainly have been unpardonable vanity in me to have thought, even for a moment, that any thing could flow from my pen, which could settle the matter in difference.

From the nature of my official situation, however, during the last season, I was acquainted with all the proceedings of the Board of Health, and being persuaded that a summary thereof, would be highly gratifying to our fellow citizens, I respectfully present them with the following. Several of our physicians were, likewise, pleased to furnish the Board with their observations respecting the nature of the first cases of the disease in this city. On whatever side of the question their opinions lay, I have placed them before the public without reserve, thus affording an opportunity to those who wish to decide impartially, the more effectually to judge for themselves; and I have likewise, acted in the same manner with respect to communications respecting the origin of pestilence in other ports and places of the United States. The list, containing the names of the dead and some other tables connected therewith, it is hoped, will be found accurate and interesting. The chapter containing desultory observations and reflections, comprises a number of particulars which have come under my own cognizance. They are not advanced with a view to support any particular theory; but merely to record facts, from which the intelligent reader can

draw his own conclusions. It is, therefore, hoped, they will be received with candour.

Upon the whole, however, on taking a retrospective view of the different opinions, which have been advanced this season, by the most eminent physicians, respecting the matter in dispute, it may be observed, that though those gentlemen who advocate the doctrine of importation and contagion, consider, in opposition to their opponents, our present quarantine laws as very defective and susceptible of much legislative improvement; yet they readily agree with them, that *when the disease has once been introduced*, offensive privies, filthy streets, foul docks, putrid animal and vegetable substances, &c. tend greatly to spread and propagate the disease. Since, therefore, we have, as yet, had no proof sufficiently satisfactory to the public mind, to which of the two sources the evil with which we have been afflicted is to be attributed, is it not the wisest and best policy to suppose, that it may proceed from either?

Should we be influenced by a belief of this kind, a wise and intelligent legislature, upon due representation, will undoubtedly render the quarantine laws, so much more efficient and rigorous, as to preclude the importation of the disease from abroad; and such undoubtedly will be the vigilance of our Board of Health, that for the sake of themselves as well as of their fellow-citizens, they will assiduously endeavour to remove every cause of impurity, which can be supposed to engender or propagate it from within. Proceeding in this manner and living, in all respects, conformably to the nature of the climate, which we inhabit, may we not expect, under the blessings of Divine Providence, an absolute exemption from the disease commonly called Yellow Fever, which has for so many years, been the scourge and terror of our country?

JAMES HARDIE.

draw his own conclusions. It is therefore hoped, they will be reached with candour.

Upon the whole, however, on taking a retrospective view of the different opinions which have been advanced this season by the most eminent physicians respecting the nature of diphtheria, it may be observed, that though these gentlemen who occupy the position of inspection and of instruction, considered, in opinion, as very different and susceptible of much relative improvement; yet they nearly agree with them, that when the disease has once been introduced, offensive putrid, bluish, streaked, and bloody, and anal and vegetable secretions, the most generally to spread and propagate the disease, should, therefore, we have, as yet, had no practical remedy by which to direct the public mind to a knowledge of the cause, or the evil which we have been told is to be attributed, is it not the most important policy to suppose, that it may proceed from either?

Should we be influenced by a belief of this kind, a wise and intelligent legislature, upon the present question, will undoubtedly, make the greatest use of its power, to reach more effectually and vigorously, as it respects the propagation of the disease, than it has done; and such undoubtedly will be the result, as well as of itself, that the great object of the law, as well as of their fellow-citizens, that it is necessary to caution them to remove every cause of impurity, which can be supposed to originate or propagate the disease, in all its forms. It is accordingly, in the present state of the climate, especially, and especially to the nature of the climate, which we inhabit, that we are exposed, under the phlogosis of diphtheria, to the most extensive and extensive, from the disease, commonly called diphtheria, which has for so many years, been the scourge and terror of our country.

JAMES HARRIS.

HISTORY

OF THE

MALIGNANT FEVER.

CHAPTER I.

OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH, TO
PREVENT THE INTRODUCTION OF MALIGNANT FEVER.

BEFORE I enter upon this subject, it will, no doubt, be deemed interesting to many of my readers, to be informed with what powers the Board of Health are, by law, invested, as they will thus be better able to decide, whether that body have not done every thing which they legally could, or which, indeed, could reasonably be expected of them to prevent the introduction or origin of so dreadful a calamity.

It is well known that the public opinion has, for a long time, been greatly divided with respect to the important question—Whether the Malignant or Yellow Fever, with which we have, of late years, been so grievously afflicted, be of domestic origin or imported? Physicians, of the first eminence, have espoused opposite sides. It was, therefore, the wisest policy for the Legislature, in forming the health laws, and for those entrusted with the execution of them, to act as if they believed, that the evil might proceed from either source; and, I doubt not, that it will be evident to most reflecting persons, that they have conducted themselves in this manner.

The Corporation of the city, about the beginning of the present year, had deemed that it would contribute to the public health, if, instead of a Health Committee, which it had heretofore been usual for them to appoint, as occasion required, a Board should be appointed, with more full and ample powers. A draft of a bill, for that purpose, was accordingly transmitted to the Legislature and passed, as follows :

AN ACT,

RELATIVE TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE CITY OF NEW
YORK—PASSED 9th MARCH, 1805.

1. *Be it enacted by the People of the State of New-York, represented in Senate and Assembly, That the powers granted in and by the thirty-first and thirty-second sections* of the act, entitled “an act to pro-*

** The following are the sections alluded to :*

“XXXI. *And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said commissioners of the health-office or a majority of them, as they shall judge advisable, to make and execute the rules and orders for cleansing and scouring the streets, alleys, passages, curtilages, sewers, yards, cellars, vaults, sinks, and other places, where filth and corruption collect, within the said city, and for removing all offensive, noxious, or putrid articles or substances which may be stored, or otherwise collected, within the said city ; and all necessary expences for carrying the said rules and orders into effect, where the same relate to the cleansing of such places as are not the property of private individuals, shall be deemed as part of the contingent expences of the said city, and the monies for defraying the same shall be raised in like manner as the other contingent ex-*

vide against infectious and pestilential diseases," to the commissioners of the Health-Office, be and here-

pences of the the said city ; and where the same shall relate to the cleansing such places as are the property of individuals, such expences shall be paid by the owners or occupiers thereof ; *Provided*, All such rules and orders shall be reported to and may be suspended or repealed at any time by the person administering the government of this State.

"XXXII. *And be it further enacted*, That whenever the city of New-York or any part thereof shall be annoyed or rendered foul by any manufactory, trade, work, or business, producing noxious vapours or highly offensive smells, or by any place where noxious or putrid substances shall be stored or collected within the said city, it shall be the duty of the said commissioners, or a majority of them, if in their opinion, the public health or that of individuals shall be endangered thereby, to proceed forthwith to such place or places and to make due inquiry and strict examination respecting the same ; and that it shall be lawful for them or either of them whenever it may be necessary, to require the aid or assistance of a justice of the peace and constable in making of such inquiry and examination, who are hereby authorised and required to break open, whenever admittance cannot otherwise be obtained, the door or doors of such place where such manufactory, trade, work or business is carried on, producing or affording such noxious vapour or highly offensive smell, or where such offensive substances are deposited ; and if the said commissioners or a majority of them shall judge, any such manufactory, trade, work, business or repository to be carried on or kept in such manner as to be a nuisance, they shall declare it so in writing to the owner thereof, or, in his absence, to such

by are transferred to the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the city of New-York. And that the said Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty shall have power, in their discretion, to remove or order the removal of all persons and things, within the said city, infected by or tainted with pestilential mat-

workman, clerk, keeper, or one of the family as they may then find on the premises, and, at the same time, shall require the removal, abatement or discontinuance of the said nuisance, as the case may require, within the time to be limited in the said writing; and if, on the expiration of the said time, the same order shall not have been complied with, it shall be the duty of the mayor or recorder of the said city, upon representation thereof to either of them made by the said commissioners, or a majority of them, immediately to issue a warrant under the hand and seal of the said mayor or recorder, directed to the sheriff of the said city, commanding him forthwith without delay to cause to be removed, abated or discontinued such nuisance; and the person to whom such declaration and requisition in writing as aforesaid shall be made, shall besides for not complying therewith, be considered as guilty of a misdemeanor, and on complaint being made thereof in writing by any one or more of the said commissioners to any one of the justices of the peace of the said city, it shall be the duty of such justice to bind the person so complained of in a recognizance with sufficient surety in the sum of two hundred dollars, for his appearance at the next general sessions of the peace in the said city, to answer to the said charge, and on due proof thereof it shall be lawful for the said court to impose a fine on the person or persons so offending, in a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars, out of which fine the expences of removing, abating or causing to be discontinued such nuisance shall be paid."

ter, to such place or places as may, in their opinion, most conduce to the preservation of the health of the said city ; and that such penalties may be contained in such bye-laws or ordinances, relative to the powers hereby granted, as the said Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty shall, from time to time, judge proper, in order to enforce a prompt and punctual compliance with the same, and for the punishment of all offenders in the premises, not exceeding one hundred dollars for each offence.

2. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall and may be lawful for the said Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty, to institute, from time to time, a Board of Health for the said city, consisting of the commissioners of the health-office, and such other persons as they may think proper, and to invest the said board with such of the powers of the said Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty, in relation to the public health, as they may judge proper, and to enforce a compliance with the orders of said board, by the infliction of penalties, not exceeding one thousand dollars, for each offence.

3. And whereas doubts may exist, whether vessels described in the second section of the act, supplementary to an act, entitled “ An act to provide against infectious and pestilential diseases may not be permitted, after being discharged of their cargoes, to approach within three hundred yards of the island of New-York ; therefore,

Be it further enacted, That such permission shall not, in any case, be granted.

4. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be in the power of the Mayor of the said city, or of the Board of Health, to order to the quarantine ground, or some other place of safety, any vessel or vessels

at the wharves, or in the vicinity of the said city, which he or they may deem prejudicial to the public health; and in case any master, owner or consignee of such vessel shall refuse or neglect to obey such orders, the person so offending shall be considered guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined in a sum not exceeding one thousand dollars, or imprisoned for a term not exceeding twelve months, in such case; and also, in case the master, owner or consignee cannot be found, the Mayor of the City of New-York, or the Board of Health shall have power to remove as aforesaid, such vessel or vessels at the expence of the master, owner or consignee.

5. *And be it further enacted*, That if any surplus money shall, in future, remain in the hands of the commissioners of the Health-Office, after each annual accounting with the comptroller of the state, the same shall be paid to the Board of Health of the said city, to be by them applied to promote the objects of that institution."

On the 25th of March the Common Council resolved, that the Mayor, Recorder, and the Aldermen, of the first five wards, together with the Commissioners of the Health-Office should be appointed a Board of Health, in conformity to the preceding law. The number was, sometime thereafter, extended, so as to comprehend the Aldermen of all the nine wards, and the city inspector, and when the citizens began to flee, in consequence of the sickness, it was deemed expedient, that the assistants of the different wards should, likewise, be added.

On the 3d of April, the Board having met and being organized, agreeably to the act aforesaid, elected Jacob Delamontagnie, Esq. as their Treasurer, and James Hardie as their Secretary and Agent. At the same meeting, a committee was likewise ap-

pointed to draft an ordinance for transferring such powers from the corporation to the board, as it might be deemed necessary, that they should be invested with for the preservation of the public health, and for enforcing the orders and regulations of said board. In consequence of which, the following was presented to the board on the 15th April, and at the next meeting of the Common Council passed into a law.

A LAW

FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BOARD OF HEALTH.

Whereas by an act of the legislature of this state, entitled, "An act relative to the public health of the city of New-York," passed the ninth day of March, 1805, the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of said city, are empowered to institute, from time to time, a Board of Health for the said city, consisting of the Commissioners of the Health-Office, and such other persons as they may think proper, and to invest the said board with such of the said powers of the said Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty, in relation to the public health, as they may judge proper, and to enforce compliance with the orders of the said board, by the infliction of penalties, not exceeding one thousand dollars, for each offence: therefore,

1. *Be it ordained by the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the city of New-York, in Common Council convened,* That a Board of Health shall be and is hereby instituted to consist of the Commissioners of the Health-Office, and of the Mayor, Recorder and Aldermen of the city, who shall assemble at such time and place and as often as they may judge proper, to superintend and carry into effect all laws and ordinances of this state and of the Common Council, which at present exist or may hereafter be passed, providing against infectious and pestilential diseases,

or which relate to the public health of this city. And the said board are hereby invested with all the powers of the said Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the city, which regard the public health of said city, to be by them exercised in such manner as, in their judgment and discretion, may best promote the important objects for which the said board is instituted, and that any five of the said board shall be a quorum to transact business.

2. *And be it further ordained,* That the said Board of Health shall make diligent enquiry with respect to all nuisances that may exist, and which they may deem obnoxious to the health and lives of the inhabitants of this city, and shall have full power to order the removal of the same at their discretion, under the several penalties in such case made and provided.

3. *And be it further ordained,* That the said Board of Health may provide or erect a suitable office for their accommodation, on the public ground or elsewhere, and during the existence of any epidemical disease, or upon its probable approach, shall have power at the public expence, to open the hospital at Bellevue, for the accommodation of the sick, and to make such rules and regulations for their reception, and also to determine what persons shall be entitled to admission, as they may think proper; and moreover, that the said board of health, during the existance of any epidemic, shall have power to furnish and employ physicians, nurses, medicines, and other necessaries, not only for the use of the sick who shall have been removed into the the said hospital, but also for the use of the sick and indigent of the city.

4. *And be it further ordained,* That the said Board of Health shall have power in their discretion to remove or order the removal of all persons and things

within the said city, infected by or tainted with pestilential matter, to such place or places as may in their opinion most conduce to the preservation of the health of this city, and in order to enforce a prompt and punctual compliance with the said order, all offenders in the premises shall be subject to a penalty not exceeding one hundred dollars for each offence.

5. "*And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the city inspector and his assistant, to attend the meetings of the Board of Health, and to be subject to such instructions as may be given to them in relation to nuisances, and to execute the several resolutions and orders of the said board."

Having thus laid before my readers, the act of the state, and the ordinance of the Corporation, for the appointment of a Board of Health, I now proceed to relate the measures which were adopted by that body, to prevent the introduction of pestilence.

During the winter, four discreet persons had been appointed to examine into the state of all the privies, within the first seven wards, and to report their condition to the City Inspector, by whom ordinances were prepared, and afterwards passed by the Common Council, for cleansing all such, the contents of which arose to within three feet of the surface of the earth. This duty was performed with great assiduity and attention, and though there were, no doubt, a few, who contrived to evade these ordinances, it is certain, that, in by far the greater number of instances, they were complied with.

On the 15th of April, his Honour the Mayor stated to the Board of Health, that he had received a deposition concerning the health of Point Petre, of which the following is a copy.

" —————* deposes, that he left Point Petre on the 9th of March, in the ———, and arrived here on Friday evening last; that a Malignant or Yellow Fever prevailed there to an alarming extent, principally on board of the shipping, the persons infected with it, dying within 12 or 14 hours after being taken, if they did not recover; that the deponent and all his hands were sick, except one; but that they all recovered; that the disease was generally attended with black vomit, and that it had considerably abated four or five days previous to the deponent's departure, two or three deaths only occurring at the most daily, whereas before that time, fourteen or fifteen deaths took place a day; that the malignity of the disease was increased by an interdiction of the landing of the sick."

Sworn the 15th April, 1805, before

DEWITT CLINTON.

After reading the above deposition, the Mayor suggested to the board the propriety of issuing the following

PROCLAMATION,

By DE WITT CLINTON,

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW-YORK.

"Whereas I have received information, that a malignant or pestilential fever prevails at Point Petre, in the island of Guadaloupe, I do, therefore, in pursuance of the authority vested in me, by law, direct, that all vessels arriving in this port, from the said island of Guadaloupe, be subject to quarantine.

(L. S.)

In witness whereof, &c.

15th April, 1805,

DE WITT CLINTON."

* As masters of vessels and others, who give information concerning the health of foreign places, might be unwilling that their names should appear in public, it is deemed expedient, in general, to suppress them.

The board unanimously resolved, that it was expedient, that the said proclamation should be immediately published.

On the 18th April, three vessels were sent down to the quarantine ground ; the reason for which will be seen from the following extract of a letter from the Secretary of the Board of Health to the Health-Officer, at Staten-Island.

“ Complaints had been made to the Resident Physician, with respect to the foul situation of the ship **General Wayne**, from Toningen. The schooner **John** had, likewise, been stated to have come from Point Petre, a sickly port in the West Indies, and the ship **Betsey**, from Jamaica, had by the confession of the captain, (M^cDougal) lost two of her crew by sickness, at Savannah-la-Mar, the port which they had last left, and also two others, during their passage to this city.

“ I accompanied the Resident Physician, this morning, on board the **John**, where he gave orders, that she should be immediately removed to the stream, to the distance of at least three hundred yards from the wharf. We, likewise, went on board the **Betsey**, where the Doctor gave similar orders, as in the case above-mentioned. With respect to the ship **General Wayne**, directions were given to Mr. Grant Forbes, the gentleman to whom that vessel was consigned, to cause her to be sent to the quarantine ground without delay.” All these orders were promptly executed.

The following letter written by direction of the Mayor to the Secretary of the Board of Health of Philadelphia, will shew the extreme anxiety and attention of that vigilant magistrate to obtain such information, not only within our own port, but likewise

from other places, as might be useful in preventing the scourge of pestilence.

*“ Office of the Board of Health,
New-York, 19th April, 1805.*

“ SIR,

“ The friendly correspondence which took place last season, between the Boards of Health of Philadelphia and this city, and which was unquestionably productive of reciprocal benefit, has induced his Honour the Mayor to instruct me to solicit its revival.

“ With this view, he has directed me to assure your board, that a full and candid disclosure of all facts, within our knowledge, relative to the objects of our appointment, shall be strictly adhered to on our part, in the correspondence, as we are fully persuaded it will be on yours.

*“ I inclose you the affidavit, on which the Mayor's late proclamation, restricting vessels from Guadeloupe was founded, and have, likewise, to inform you of the case of the ship Betsey from Savannah-la-Mar, which arrived at this port a few days ago. The captain (M'Dougal) states, that while at Jamaica, he lost two of his crew by sickness, and two more on their passage to this place. The death of the two first was, in his opinion, to be attributed to an inflammation of the bowels, occasioned by their frequent exposure to damps and rains, in the woods, where they concealed themselves in order to avoid being impressed by the British. One of the others died after an indisposition of about four hours, and from the manner in which the captain described the symptoms attending the fourth, the Resident Physician was induced to apprehend, that he might have died of Malignant Fever.**

* The captain asserted, that at the time he left Savannah-la-Mar, it was remarkably healthy, and subsequent information from that port, shewed that he was perfectly correct.

“ Although, at this early period of the season, it is not probable that imminent danger was to be apprehended from a circumstance of this nature, the Health Commissioners thought it most prudent to send the *Betsey* to the quarantine ground, from the place where she now lies, as also the ship *General Wayne*, which lately arrived here in a foul state, with passengers, from Toningen.

“ The alarming indications, which have taken place thus early, and the transfer of the seat of war from Europe to the West-Indies inculcate the absolute necessity of adopting all the precautionary measures in our power ; but while our conduct will be marked by a spirit of this kind, we shall never lose sight of the respect we entertain for your board, nor of the duties we owe to your city.

With great respect,

I am, &c.

JAMES HARDIE, Sec'y.

To Dr. James Reynolds, Secretary, }
Board of Health, Philadelphia.” }

A polite acknowledgment of the aforesaid letter was soon after received, in which a scrupulous transmission of every circumstance that should come to their knowledge of the existence of yellow fever, either among themselves, or elsewhere, was promised.

Altho' as yet, no sickness had appeared or even been supposed to exist in the city, the board deeming it expedient to take every precaution against the worst that might happen, proposed to the common council the adoption of the following resolution :

“ *Resolved*, That the buildings and grounds belonging to the corporation at Bellevue, be put under the direction of the Board of Health, and that they be authorized to make such repairs for the preservation

of the buildings, and the accommodation of such sick persons, as may be sent there by the said board."

The resolution was accordingly agreed to, and directions were given, on the 18th day of May following, to the Superintendant of Public Works, to proceed as speedily as possible to make the necessary repairs.

The experience of former sickly seasons having sufficiently taught us, that a very great proportion of cases of Malignant Fever occurred in such taverns and boarding-houses, as were kept in a filthy state, and were generally overcrouded by logders, in order to obviate this evil as much as possible, it was deemed expedient to appoint an additional assistant to the City-Inspector, who should have it in charge to pay particular attention to that business. In the mean time, care was taken to remove every nuisance which could be discovered, with all possible dispatch.

It is to be observed, that all vessels coming from the West-Indies, and certain other places, between the 1st day of June and 1st of October, in any one year, are by law prohibited, from approaching within three hundred yards of the lower part of the island of New-York; but by a subsequent act, the Mayor or the Board of Health are invested with authority to order to the quarantine ground, or some other place of safety, any vessel at the wharves, or in the vicinity of the city, which he or they may deem prejudicial to the public health, at any season of the year.

In conformity to this last act, on the 23d of May, the following resolutions were passed.

"Resolved, That all vessels which may have arrived at this port, from any port or place in the West-In-

dies, since the 18th day of May instant, be directed forthwith to leave the wharves, and haul out into the stream, to the distance of at least three hundred yards from that part of the island, which lies southward of a line drawn from the house owned and occupied by William Bayard, on the north river, and Stuyvesant's dock upon the east river, and that the same regulation shall be observed, with respect to all vessels which may hereafter arrive from the West-Indies, under the penalty of being prosecuted according to law."

"*Resolved*, That the Secretary of this board shall serve a notice of the above resolution in writing, upon the masters, commanders, owners, or consignees, of all vessels of the above description, which may have come to his knowledge. It was also resolved, that the said resolutions should be published in the several newspapers employed by the Corporation."

In consequence of the above resolutions, the Secretary, on the evening of the same day, (the 23d) delivered five different notices to Samuel G. Ogden, Esq. the owner or consignee of the ships Hindostan, Leander, Oliver Elsworth, Sophrona, and of the brig Dolly, and, on the day following, served another to the same purport, on captain James Newell, of the ship Clyde, from St. Thomas. All these vessels, the Hindostan excepted, were moved to the stream forthwith; but owing to some peculiar difficulties in carrying out the Hindostan, she did not leave the wharf till the evening of the 27th. It is evident, however, that no mischief arose from either of these vessels having been at the wharves, as no person was taken sick of fever, in the vicinity of any of those places, at which they respectively lay, till at least two months thereafter.

At a meeting of the board, on the 7th June, it was stated, that a man named Daniel Wright, was sick

in Roosevelt street, of a disease which was deemed to be of a malignant nature. As this man's case was unfortunately the subject of a short controversy between certain medical gentlemen, who are deservedly ranked amongst the most eminent in their profession, I would have willingly passed it over in silence, but as it is indispensably necessary, that I should state how tremblingly alive the board were to every thing, which might endanger the public health, I cannot consistently with justice to that body, omit recording their proceedings upon the occasion. After the case had been represented, it was immediately "Ordered, that James Hardie and John Delamater, or either of them, cause the said Daniel Wright to be immediately removed to the Marine Hospital, with *all possible precaution for the safety of the sick person and for the prevention of a spread of contagion*; that they cause the bedding and cloathing infected or, suspected to be infected to be destroyed, and the house of the said Daniel Wright to be thoroughly cleansed, and that they furnish the family of the said Wright, with suitable accommodations and provisions until the farther order of the board," &c.

In consequence of the above orders, the sick person was forthwith sent to the marine hospital, and his wife, who expressed a desire to that purpose, was readily permitted to accompany him.* A feather bed, on which he had laid, a straw bed, a sheet and bed spread, together with some wearing apparel, which lay upon the bed were forthwith destroyed; the house was thoroughly cleansed and white-washed, and his five children committed to the care of Mr. William Davis, a worthy man, and very particular friend of the family.

*The wives and relatives of such persons who were sent from this city either to the Marine Hospital or Bellevue were not, in a single instance, refused a similar privilege.

Mr. Wright's illness was severe and tedious; but after some weeks, he, at last, returned to the city in good health, and received a satisfactory compensation for that part of his property, which it had been deemed necessary to destroy, with a view to the preservation of the general health of the city.

From this period till the beginning of July, nothing remarkable occurred to the board; the city enjoyed good health, nor did the citizens appear to be under the least alarm.

On the 1st of July, the Secretary wrote a letter to the Mayor, of which the following is a copy.

New-York, 1st July, 1805.

"SIR,

"Complaint having been made to me this morning, that a sloop was lying, at the west side of the Old-slip, which emitted so offensive a smell, as already to have occasioned the sickness of one person, I immediately went to the spot, and found the vessel alluded to, to be the sloop Polly, of New-Orleans.

"With respect to any person having been taken sick there, I have made particular enquiry, and *am perfectly satisfied that it is not true*; but the hold of the vessel is foul, and the bilge-water emits an offensive smell. I am, therefore, of opinion, that this vessel should be moved to the distance of three hundred yards from the wharf.

I am, &c.

James Hardie, Sec'ry.

Hon. DE WITT CLINTON."

In consequence of the above letter, the Mayor issued an order, directing the said vessel to be forthwith moved into the stream to the distance aforesaid. The vessel, however, having immediately been tho

roughly cleaned, and as there was not a single article on board, she was permitted to remain. No evil resulted from this vessel.

A vessel named the Happy Couple, last from Halifax, had been detained in the stream, because she had been cleared out from St. Mark, a sickly port in the West-Indies. A petition, praying that she might be permitted to come up, was presented to the Board of Health, on the 21st June. This was accompanied by the following deposition.

“ Thomas W. Story maketh oath, that he sailed in the brig Happy Couple of New-York, as master, from the port of St. Mark, in the island of Hispaniola, on the 22d day of February last, bound for New-York, and on said passage, said brig was intercepted and seized as a prize, by the British ship of war Cambrian, and carried into Halifax, where this deponent left said brig, and came to New-York some time since; and this deponent further saith, that there was not any sickness nor any death on board said brig Happy Couple, at any time during said passage, from St. Marks to Halifax, and that said vessel hath lately arrived at New-York from Halifax, as he has been informed and believes.

THOMAS W. STORY.

Sworn 20th June, 1805, before
John Keese, Public Notary.”

It being, likewise, made evident to the board, from other respectable testimony, that the Happy Couple had been about three months at Halifax, it was resolved, that the Happy Couple cannot be considered as a vessel coming from the West-Indies, and that she may, therefore, be permitted to come into the dock.

Complaint having been made concerning the state of the Fly-market-slip, the same was referred to the Street Commissioner, on the 1st of July, who reported as follows.

“ That the Fly-market-slip is now so much filled with mud, as to stop the drain, and that the Superintendant of Scavengers believes it can be dug out with shovels, in the evenings, at low water, without injury to the health of the citizens.

“ That the people who pay for the use of the slip for their market-boats, complain of the want of accommodation at the ferry-stairs, and that they cannot land their goods on the wharf at low water.

“ That it would probably be well to cause a platform to be run across, on the head of the slip, with a small stairs on the west side for their accommodation, and to prevent the noxious effects upon the mud in the head of the slip, which is bare at half tide.”

These measures were afterwards adopted ; but not till a committee, appointed to examine into the circumstances, had given it as their opinion, that it could be done consistently with the health of the city.

But why, it may be asked, was not this and some other slips cleaned before this period ? It was owing to no neglect in the Superintendant of Scavengers, than whom no man can be more attentive to the duties of his office ; but to the circumstance, that there was only one mud machine, and that it could only be used for a very short period this season, as it was unusually late before the winter broke up. The corporation, at so early a period as the 24th January, were aware that one machine was inadequate for the purpose of cleaning all the slips, at the proper time of the year, and then advertised for proposals to construct two additional ones, similar to that which they had already : but as no person could be found, who would contract for having them finished, so as to answer any purpose this season, the

business was, for a time, postponed. Contracts, however, have been since formed for their construction, and there is no doubt that these machines will be at work early next spring, so that all the docks and slips will be thoroughly cleansed, previous to the commencement of hot weather.

Complaints having been made that bad smells were emitted from the vats of several tanners and curriers, on the 8th of July it was resolved, that the existing laws, concerning these objects, should be strictly put in force. A Committee was, at the same time, appointed to draft an address to the citizens, containing an abstract of the laws, which have been enacted for the preservation of the public health. This Committee made their report to the Board on the 11th following. As it is rather long, I, at first, doubted the propriety of giving it a place, in this publication, but when I consider how very desirable it is, that every citizen should be acquainted with the existing laws respecting health, and that the perusal of them might, likewise be interesting to strangers, I have deemed it advisable to insert it :—

ADDRESS

TO THE CITIZENS OF NEW-YORK.

“The Board of Health find it expedient, at the present critical period of the season to call the attention of their fellow-citizens to the measures, which are now in operation for the purpose of providing against malignant and pestilential diseases. They consider this duty as the more important, as they are anxious to diffuse information on this subject, to prevent undue apprehensions, to secure the vigilance and co-operation of every good citizen, and to attach that degree of confidence, which is requisite to the success of their exertions.

“ The system of measures which is now in full operation, may be divided into *external* and *internal*, or into such as are intended to guard against *foreign* and *domestic* causes of disease.

“ The *external* precautions comprehend the regulations of commerce and shipping. All vessels arriving from any part of the world, except the ports of the United States, north-east of Sandy-Hook, between the 1st of June and 1st of October, are strictly examined at the quarantine ground, and made subject to the directions of the Health-Officer, under a penalty not exceeding two thousand dollars, or twelve months imprisonment.

“ All vessels arriving from a place where a Malignant or Pestilential Fever was prevailing, at the time of departure, or if, during the voyage, any person has died or been sick on board, with such fever, are absolutely prohibited from approaching the city, nearer than the quarantine ground, until the 1st day of October, under a penalty not exceeding two thousand dollars, or imprisonment for a time not exceeding three years. No person, arriving in such or any other vessel, at the quarantine ground, is allowed to proceed to the city, nor is any part of the cargo of such vessels allowed to be conveyed to the city, without a permit in writing, from the Health-Officer, under the same penalty.

“ The Governor, or in his absence the Mayor, or in the absence of both, the Recorder, may designate other descriptions of vessels, that may become liable to quarantine, and may prohibit or regulate the intercourse by land or ferries, with all sickly or suspect-places.

“ For the sake of additional security, all vessels arriving from any port in the W. Indies, in South Ame-

rica, in the United States, southward of Savannah in Georgia, in the Mississippi, in the Mediterranean, in Africa, or in Asia, (except Canton and Calcutta,) between the 1st of June and 1st of October, altho' no Malignant or Pestilential Fever was prevailing at such ports, at the time of departure; although no person had died ~~as~~ been sick on board with such fever, and although the Health-Officer, after examination, had given his permit to proceed, are prohibited from approaching within three hundred yards of that part of the island of New-York, which lies southward of a line drawn from the house of William Bayard, on the North River, to Stuyvesant's dock on the East River, under a penalty not exceeding two thousand dollars, or imprisonment for a time not exceeding three years.

“ The Mayor or Board of Health may order to the quarantine ground, or other place of safety, any vessel at the wharves, or in the vicinity of the city, which they may deem prejudicial to the public health, under the penalty of one thousand dollars, and when the owner, consignee, or commander of such vessel cannot be found, they may remove them, at the expence of such owner, &c. The Board of Health may, likewise, order the removal of persons and things infected by or tainted with pestilential matter, to such place as they may think proper, and any one who resists their authority in this respect, forfeits one hundred dollars.

“ Many articles of a suspicious kind are particularly excluded. Hides are excluded between the 1st of June and 1st of November, under the penalty of being sold for the use of the Health-Office. Foreign cotton is prohibited, within the same period; but that which is the produce of the United States, is only excluded from that part of the city, which lies south of the out-let of Lispenard's meadow and Ferry-street,

near Corlaer's-hook. Damaged coffee is specially prohibited.

“ No communication with vessels at quarantine is allowed, without special permit, under a penalty not exceeding two hundred dollars. All sick persons of whatever description, found on board such vessels, are conducted to the Marine Hospital, and there detained till their recovery or death. All vessels found to be unhealthy, or even suspected to be so, are washed, cleansed, ventilated and white-washed, at the quarantine ground, and in case of disobedience to the directions of the Health-Officer, in this respect, the master, owner, or consignee, is liable to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars. All wearing apparel, bedding, &c. are washed and cleansed, or if it be thought proper, destroyed.”

“ The above may be considered as a summary of the *external* precautions. The *internal* precautions comprehend those laws and regulations, which respect the removal of nuisances, and the preservation of cleanliness in the city ; the principal of which follow.”

“ No dead animal shall be left exposed, in any place, within the first eight wards of the city, under the penalty of ten dollars.

“ No pickled or salted beef shall be deposited in any place, to the southward of Lispenard's meadow and Grand-street, between the 1st of June and 1st of November, under a penalty not exceeding five hundred dollars, or imprisonment for a time not exceeding six months, nor shall any beef or pork be sold at auction, within the said period, under the penalty of twenty-five dollars.

“ Boarding-houses shall be kept neat and clean, and no more lodgers shall be admitted than the City

Inspector shall think proper, under the penalty of twenty-five dollars, for each person exceeding such number. The City Inspector or his agent shall, likewise, examine them, at least once a week, during the summer. Persons taken sick in boarding-houses, between the 1st of June and 1st of November, must be reported to the Health-Office, within twelve hours after they are so taken, under the penalty of one hundred dollars, or six months imprisonment.

“ Butchers shall bring no gut-fat into the market, nor the head of any sheep or lamb, unless the same be properly cleaned, nor any sheep or lamb in carcase or quarters, with the feet or trotters thereto, nor any hides or skins, (calves-skins excepted) under the penalty of two dollars. They shall, likewise, immediately after killing any animal, destroy the offals, or convey the same into the river, under the penalty of twenty-five dollars. They shall not expose to sale, any stale or unwholesome provisions, under the penalty of ten dollars.

“ All dirt and filth shall be brought out from houses, cellars, alleys, yards and lots, (twice a-week,) on sweeping days, before ten o'clock in the morning, under the penalty of two dollars.

“ No Sexton shall inter any person who may have died of a Pestilential or Malignant Fever, in any place to the southward of Pump and Nicholas-streets, under the penalty of one hundred dollars; nor shall they inter any corpse, within the above limits, except in graves or vaults, at least six feet deep, and without removing any other dead body or coffin, under the same penalty.

“ No privy shall be emptied during the summer, except between the hours of eleven at night and three in the morning, under the penalty of five dollars, nor

shall any human excrements be thrown into any street, lane, alley, dock, &c. under the penalty of ten dollars.

“ No new made ground shall be turned up, during the summer months, under the penalty of twenty-five dollars.

“ Gutters shall be thoroughly swept out and cleansed on sweeping days, under the penalty of two dollars.

“ Noisome or offensive substances shall not be deposited in any place to the southward of Grand-street; nor shall any pit for tanners and skinners, or pool of stagnant water be allowed, except in Beckman's swamp, under the penalty of five dollars. Manufactories which emit offensive smells, may, likewise, be suspended by the Baord of Health.

“ No oysters shall be brought into or sold in this city, between the 1st of June and 30th of September, under the penalty of two dollars for every hundred.

“ Undressed skins, hides, blubber, &c. shall not be kept to the southward and westward of Catherine-street, and the Fresh-Water-Pond, under the penalty of five dollars for every twenty-four hours neglect.

“ Putrid and unsound provisions shall be destroyed by starting them into the river, and no salted or pickled fish, (except smoked) shall be kept, to the southward of Grand-street, between the 1st of May and 1st of October, under a penalty not exceeding 500 dollars, or imprisonment not exceeding six months.

“ Nuisances of every other description must be removed or remedied, agreeably to the mode prescribed by the City Inspector, under the penalty of five dollars for every twenty-four hours neglect; and in

addition to the penalties prescribed in the cases of nuisances, by the statutes of the state and ordinances of the city, the remedies by common law, may likewise be enforced.

“ Any physician, having a patient labouring under a pestilential or infectious disease, shall forthwith report in writing to one of the Commissioners of the Health-Office, under the penalty of fifty dollars.

“ The Board of Health being conscientiously impressed with the opinion, that these laws, if duly observed, are well calculated, under the blessings of Divine Providence, to avert pestilential diseases from our city, conceive it to be their duty to inform the public, that they are determined rigorously to enforce their observation, by exacting the several penalties therein contained, for neglect or violation; and, as they are persuaded, that the thinking part of the community will see the necessity of paying a strict attention to these laws, they earnestly request, that, when any violation shall take place, information may be lodged at the office of the City Inspector, in order that a prompt and adequate remedy may be applied.

“ The board will conclude this address, by congratulating their fellow-citizens on the state of health, which we now enjoy, and which, in so populous a city, is almost unparalleled, at this season of the year; and they think it proper further to inform the public, that they may, at all times, ascertain with precision, the state of health, by recurring to the weekly bills of mortality, published by the City Inspector, which being collected with the greatest care, and issued forth to the world, without reserve or disguise, may always be relied on as correct and authentic.

By order and in behalf of the
Board of Health,
DE WITT CLINTON, President.

James Hardie, Sec'ry.
Office of the Board of Health, }
11th July, 1805.” }

On the 15th July, the following letter from the building committee of Trinity Church was received.

No. 10, Broadway, July 13th, 1805.

“ GENTLEMEN,

“ The Corporation of Trinity Church having lately purchased the ground between Rector street and the house of Mr. John Livingston, in Broadway, for the purpose of erecting thereon a house for public worship, the committee of the vestry charged with this business, are ready to begin the building; but as it may be requisite to remove a vault, and open such of the graves as shall be found in or near the line of the walls of the building, we have considered it to be our duty to consult your board previously to doing so, and to request that you will be pleased to inform us, whether, in your opinion, there will be any objection, on the score of the public health, to our now going on with the business. It will be recollected that the ground has been but little used for burial, and rarely of late years.

With sentiments, &c.

RUFUS KING,

In behalf of the Committee.”

The above was referred to the medical gentlemen of the board and the City Inspector, who after an interview with the committee of the vestry, reported, that these gentlemen were satisfied, that on the score of the public health, it would be most prudent to suspend the work till the month of November.

On the 16th of July, the Secretary was directed forthwith to visit the ship *Experiment*, from Newry, at the bottom of Courtlandt-street, represented to be in a foul situation, and report her state as soon as possible to the proper authority.

The following extract of a letter from the Secretary to his Honour the Mayor, written on the evening of the same day, will shew the state of that vessel.

“ Agreeably to the directions of the board, I have this afternoon, particularly examined the ship *Experiment*, and have the pleasure of informing you, that she is so far from being in the state represented, that I consider her to be remarkably clean.

“ A barrel or two of putrid pork, from on board of that vessel, was yesterday started into the river, from the far end of the dock, and this, by occasioning, for a short time, an offensive smell, might have given rise to the report, that the ship was foul. All the beef which was on board has, according to information, which I deem to be correct, been carried to a packing yard, at the upper end of Greenwich-street. We have, therefore, in my opinion, not even the slightest reason to be apprehensive of danger either from the ship or her cargo.”

On the 18th July, the following case of disease occurred, which was universally acknowledged to be Malignant or Yellow Fever, by every physician* who visited him, as well as by several other persons, who had been accustomed to see that disorder. A man by the name of Christopher Hibbron, hostler, in the employment of Mr. Andrew Stayley, who kept a livery-stable in an alley, in the rear of No. 92, Maiden-Lane, was taken sick on the 9th July. His case was no ways alarming until the 14th, when he was reported to Dr. Miller, the Resident Physician, who, on visiting him, did not regard him as being in a critical state, until the 18th, when the symptoms had become so alarming as to induce that gentleman to recommend his re-

* The physicians who saw him in this city, were Drs. Miller, Jones, Moore, Walker and Manley. At the Marine Hospital, he was under the care of Drs. Rodgers and Bayley.

removal to the Marine Hospital, where he died on the third day after his arrival. On the same day, a man named William Aylesbury, another hostler, who was, likewise, in the same employment, and under the same roof, was likewise sent to the Hospital. He was for some time very sick, but at last recovered.

I, for the present, pass over the medical opinions and observations concerning these men, in order that I may go on in chronological order with the most remarkable transactions of the board. I shall, therefore, only observe, at present, that every possible precaution was taken to prevent the spread of infection, by destroying the bedding and wearing apparel of the persons removed, and by thoroughly cleansing and white-washing the apartments, in which they had slept, &c.

On the 20th of July, the following deposition was taken before the Mayor.

“ ——— deposes, that he left the Havannah in the ———, on — July, when that port was remarkably healthy; that at the time of the departure of the said vessel, there were but two or three cases reported to be so, that the deponent was informed of, of Yellow or Malignant Fever, in that place, and that no person was sick or died, on board of the said vessel, during the passage, as this deponent believes.”

There were, at that time, two vessels which had just arrived from the Havannah, viz. the *Eliza* and the *Mary*. The former of these was lying in the stream opposite the city; the latter had not yet come up from the quarantine ground. To captain Burgess, master of the *Eliza*, the Secretary, on the same day, delivered an order from the Mayor, directing her immediate removal, which was promptly complied with. He, likewise, wrote to the Health-Officer,

at Staten-Island, requesting the detention of the Mary till further orders.

It may be observed, that in the above deposition, there was nothing very alarming. Reports had, however, gone abroad, that two captains, who had belonged to the Eliza, had died in succession. The Mayor, therefore, from motives, which every reflecting citizen must deem to have been highly prudent, thought it advisable to have the vessels detained at quarantine, till further information could be procured.

The captains of the Mary and Eliza, having petitioned the Board of Health to be permitted to come up from quarantine, the Mayor directed the Secretary, on the 21st of July, to write to the Health-Officer, requesting him to put questions, on oath, to the following purport, to the sailors of the Eliza separately.

1st. Did captain Burgess go out as master of the Eliza? If not, who did, and what became of him?

2d. What persons were engaged, as captains at the Havannah before Mr. Burgess, and what became of them? Did they die there?

3d. Was there any Yellow or Malignant Fever at the Havannah, when the Eliza left that port?

4th. Did any person die, or was any person sick on board of the vessel, at the Havannah, or in the passage, or in this port?

To these queries, the Secretary, on the 22d July, received a letter from Dr. Rodgers, containing the depositions of the mates of the Mary and Eliza, and also of six seamen belonging to the Mary, and of five belonging to the Eliza; all of which amounted to the

same purport, viz. that Captain Eliab Burgess commanded the *Eliza* at the time of her departure from New-York, in May last, and ever since ; that no person had died or been sick on board the *Eliza* since she had left this port ; and that at the time they left the Havannah, they believed it to be perfectly healthy. On the 24th of July, the ship *John Jones*, likewise arrived from the same port, the master of which, captain Sherry, deposed, that the port, at the time of his departure, was remarkably healthy, and that he had brought back all his former crew, no one of them having been sick. Upon the board having received so satisfactory evidence upon this subject, it was deemed advisable to permit the vessels to come up and anchor in the stream.

The following extract of a letter from the Health-Officer to the Secretary, dated the 21st of July, will shew the state of the shipping, with respect to health, previous to that time. “ You may assure the Board of Health, that not a vessel has passed through our hands this summer to the city, from any part of the world, which the law contemplates, that has lost any of her crew by sickness, or on board of which any person was taken sick with fever. This I aver, if any confidence is to be placed in the oaths of masters of vessels ; but if people will perjure themselves, I am not responsible.”

On the morning of the 22d of July, it having been represented to the board, that Mr. Thomas Young was sick of a suspicious disease, at No. 25 Rose-street, the Health Commissioners, Drs. Miller and Jones, were requested to examine into the nature of the complaint, and report to the board at a meeting, which was to be held in the afternoon of the same day. The following is their report upon this subject : “ The undersigned, Commissioners of the Health-Office, to whom was referred, by the Board

of Health, the consideration of the case of Thomas Young, at No. 25 Rose-street, report, that, having visited and carefully examined the case of the said Young, they find him, after an illness of thirteen days, apparently convalescent, and unless some unexpected reverse should take place, likely to recover in a short time. They think, however, that this case, though mild and moderate in degree, when considered in its whole duration, may be justly suspected of partaking of the nature of malignant fever." Mr. Young lingered for some time and recovered.

On the 22d day of July, the board, for the first time, received some private information, that a malignant or pestilential fever existed in New-Haven, Connecticut. The intelligence, however, did not appear to carry along with it, that degree of authenticity which would warrant the interdiction of commerce between the two cities. It was, therefore, deemed expedient to postpone the business till the nature of the complaint at New-Haven should be more particularly ascertained. By the 26th, private letters, as well as the deposition of a respectable gentleman from that quarter, had fixed it beyond a doubt, that a fever, prevailed in that city, concerning which there was a considerable diversity of opinion, some believing it to be bilious, and others to be the true yellow, or malignant fever. It was, however, admitted, on all hands, that several persons had fallen victims to it, after an illness of a few days.

The board, upon receipt of the above information, recommended to his Honour the Mayor, "to issue his proclamation, subjecting all vessels from New-Haven to quarantine of course, and prohibiting all persons from that city to enter this city, unless they had been fourteen days from that place."

The following proclamation was, therefore, issued on the same day.

PROCLAMATION,

BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW-YORK.

"Whereas it appears to me, that an infectious or pestilential disease doth prevail in the city of New-Haven, in the State of Connecticut, I do, therefore, by virtue of the powers, in me vested, by the act, entitled "An act to provide against infectious and pestilential diseases," and in pursuance of the advice of the Board of Health, order and direct, that all vessels which shall arrive at this port, from New-Haven, shall be subject to quarantine, of course, and that no person shall be permitted to enter the city and county of New-York, who shall have been within the said city of New-Haven, within fourteen days next proceeding his or her arrival, at the said city and county of New-York.

"Whereof, all pilots and other officers entrusted with the execution of the said act, and all other persons, are requested to take notice, and govern themselves accordingly, under the pains and penalties imposed upon offenders by the said act, which will be rigorously enforced.

In witness whereof, &c.

the 26th day of July, 1805.

DE WITT CLINTON."

On the 27th of July, the following letter from our Mayor, was transmitted to the Mayor of New-Haven.

"New-York 27th July, 1805.

"SIR,

"Information from various quarters, of the prevalence of a malignant disease, in the city of New-Haven, has enforced upon me the duty of issuing the enclosed proclamation.

“ It is scarcely necessary to assure you, that this measure was taken, not without mature deliberation, and the most unfeigned regret. We sincerely pray, that the cause which has induced it, will soon cease, and that a speedy change in the health of your city, will produce a renewal of our usual intercourse ; and we trust, that you will feel persuaded, that there is nothing in this step, which can, in the remotest degree, be deemed unfriendly to the interests of your city, and that we entertain every disposition to improve and extend the friendly communication, which has hitherto taken place between us.

I am, &c.

DE WITT CLINTON.

The Mayor of New-Haven.

We shall be happy to hear from you on this subject.”

On the same day (July 26), the Mayor wrote a letter to Dr. Rodgers, of which the following is a copy.

“ *New-York, 26th July, 1805.*

“ DEAR SIR,

“ It is of the utmost importance to ascertain the origin of the Yellow Fever ; but in order to do this to general satisfaction, it is proper, that the advocates of both theories should have an equal chance in exploring the sources of information.

“ Under this impression, I have concluded, in my own mind, to furnish them indiscriminately and impartially with all the information in my power ; but as the patients in the Marine Hospital, have only undergone the inspection of medical gentlemen, in favour of domestic origin, previous to their being sent from this place, I have to request, that you will permit Dr. Hosack and the gentlemen accompanying

him, to see those sick persons. This cannot be considered an interference with your department, and the emergency of the occasion, and the interests of the city require a step of the kind, in order that a full investigation, satisfactory to all parties, may be had.

I am, &c.

DE WITT CLINTON."

On the afternoon of the same day on which the above was written, Dr. Hosack, accompanied by Drs. Williamson and Stringham, proceeded to the Marine Hospital, at the quarantine ground. The result of their observations will appear presently.

At a meeting of the Board of Health, held on the 30th July, 1805, it was "resolved, that James Hardie be, and he is hereby authorized, to cause James Dougherty, from No. 127 Water-street, to be forthwith removed to the Marine Hospital, and that he also cause all proper means of purification and prevention to be enforced." In conformity with the above resolution, Mr. Dougherty was forthwith removed; the whole of his cloathing and bedding was either sent along with him to the Marine Hospital, or completely destroyed, and the apartments fumigated, thoroughly cleaned, and white-washed. It is to be observed, that this was not only represented to be a case of Malignant Fever, by medical gentlemen, who believe in the local origin of the disease, but also by Dr. Hosack, whose opinion is in favour of its importation.

On the 1st of August, the Mayor wrote a letter to Dr. Hosack, of which the following is a copy.

"SIR,

"I understand, that in consequence of a request made by me, (with a view that the advocates of both theories might have an equal chance of exploring the

sources of Malignant Fever) you, in company with two other gentlemen, proceeded to the quarantine ground, in order to examine the cases of the patients there sick, or supposed to be so, with that disease. If perfectly agreeable to those gentlemen and yourself, I will thank you to favour me with your observations and opinions on this subject.

I have the honour, &c.

DE WITT CLINTON."

In consequence of the above letter, the following answers were received.

" New-York, August 4th, 1805.

" DEAR SIR,

" In compliance with your request of July 26th, conveyed to me by Alderman Van Zandt, one of the members of the Board of Health, I called upon Dr. Hugh Williamson and Dr. James Stringham, requesting them, in your name, to accompany me to Staten-Island, to examine the two patients who had been sent from the city, and reported to be ill of the Yellow Fever.

" Impressed with the belief, that the Health-Officer would readily afford us the opportunity we desired to see and examine the patients, it was from delicacy concluded, not to deliver your letter, unless, which could not be supposed, it should become necessary, in order that the object in view should not be frustrated.

" Discovering, however, in the Health-Officer, a reluctance to shew us the sick, or to give us the information we desired, Dr. Williamson presented him your letter. We were then admitted to the Hospital.

" The first of the two hostlers shewn us, as those from Stayley's livery-stable, was Aylesbury. He had

a yellow skin, but of the natural temperature; a feeble, but not a quickened pulse; his stomach was retentive, although we were informed by the nurse, that, in the beginning, he had thrown up large quantities of *bile*, and that the evacuations from the bowels had been of a *dark green colour*; they were now natural. Upon enquiring into the state of his urine, we were informed that it had been very *yellow*; that it still remained so, and that it stained his linen.

“ We next visited the man last sent down, by the name of Kirkwood;* his symptoms were all so mild, that we could scarcely perceive the marks of febrile action of any sort; indeed it was admitted on all hands, that his illness was not the Yellow Fever.

“ Hibbron, the first person sent down, and whose case had excited the most attention, and given the most alarm, we were informed, had died the Monday preceding. We, therefore, could only satisfy ourselves as to his case, by enquiry, and having seen it asserted in one of the public prints, in such a manner as to induce the belief, that the information had been received from the Health-Office, that Hibbron had died, with all the decided and most malignant symptoms of the Yellow Fever, and, that he had the *black vomit*, attended with *bleeding at the nose*, we examined as far as we could into these facts. It appeared, that he had voided blood from the *intestines*, and that he died of a *mortification of the bowels*. I asked the Health-Officer in particular, whether he had had the *black vomit*? He answered, that he did throw up a *dark coloured matter*, as he was informed by the nurse. The question was then urged in a more precise shape, and he was asked if he had had the particular species of black vomit, which attends the Yellow Fever, either the *coffee-*

* James Kirkwood was sent to the Marine Hospital from Mr. Stayley's on the 23d July.

ground or the flakey? He answered, *No, he could not say he had.*

“Such, sir, is the history of the material facts, that we saw and ascertained at the quarantine ground. The remainder, necessary to complete the cases, will be found in the affidavit of Mr. Stayley,* who attended upon these men, prior to their removal to the Marine Hospital, at whose examination I was present, as was also the Resident Physician.

“As you request not only a detail of particulars, but also my opinion of the nature of the disease of those persons, I do not hesitate to express it.

“I have no doubt that the illness of those three men was the effect of *cold* from exposure to the *night air*, and, excepting Kirkwood, of intemperance; and that their disease, was the common *Bilious Fever* of our country, to which strangers (as all those persons were) are particularly liable on their first arrival. And I have no hesitation to pronounce that after a minute and I trust a candid and impartial examination of all the facts, there has been no Yellow Fever in either of the above cases, but that the unnecessary and injurious alarm, which has, in this instance, been raised and propagated respecting our city, has been without any adequate cause to justify it.

“I have the honor, &c.

DAVID HOSACK.

The Hon. DE WITT CLINTON.”

“*New-York, Aug. 2, 1805.*

“SIR,

“It had been asserted, and the story was often repeated, that “two men, sick of the yellow fever,

* For Mr. Stayley's affidavit see page 50.

were lately sent to the marine hospital from a house in Maiden-lane," and that "a third subject, labouring under the same disease, was sent to the hospital after a few days, from the same house." Reports of this kind have a rapid circulation, and in every case are exceedingly injurious to the community; therefore, the sooner they are corrected, if false, the better. As there was no reason to suspect, that either of the men in question had caught an imported disease, it must follow, that the Yellow Fever is a complaint of domestic origin, provided these men have been ill of that disease. Sundry cases of Yellow Fever, generated in the country, had been stated to me by respectable authority and I believed the report, but had reason afterwards to be satisfied that in every case my informants had been deceived. It was alledged, however, that the case above mentioned was a case in point; that is, was indisputably a Yellow Fever of domestic origin. Wishing, if possible, to discover the truth on this question, in which our fellow citizens are so deeply interested, I visited the Marine Hospital on the 26th ult. in company with Dr. Hosack and Dr. Stringham. It is understood that the three men to whom I refer, had been hostlers at the same livery-stable, and that they had lately arrived from Europe. It is also understood, that one of them who was first seized of the fever, died at the Hospital before we made the visit. Of the other two, whom we saw, I think it may be said with confidence, that they were not afflicted with the Yellow Fever; they laboured under a common Bilious Fever, from which they have since recovered. This complaint is prevalent in the Southern States, during the summer season, and in many cases is fatal, especially to strangers who come from a northern climate. But, common as the fever may be, a great proportion of the cases that I have seen could be traced to some act of imprudence in the patient, or

to obstructed perspiration by rain or dew. The symptoms of the fever, by which those men were afflicted, according to their own account, have been precisely the same from the beginning, with the symptoms which attend the Bilious Fever that occurs every year in the southern states, and from the general appearance of the patients, it must be admitted that the fevers are of the same kind. The cause also of the fever in those men appears to be exactly the same as that to which I have alluded. The man who was last taken ill, is a native of Scotland, in the vigor of life, and lately arrived in the United States. He sat out of doors one night in a gig, expecting the return of a customer, after midnight, and fell asleep. He caught a cold, and in two or three days, the fever came on. It must be admitted, that fevers which proceed from the same cause, and resemble one another in every particular, should be called by the same names.

“Of the man who died at the Hospital, or of his fever, the gentlemen who saw him are the competent judges; but if his fever was not strongly marked by the peculiar features of the Yellow Fever, if the attending physicians retained any doubts concerning the family to which it belonged, we are justified in supposing that it was also a Bilious Fever. By the way, it is not uncommon for a Bilious Fever, in particular seasons and circumstances, to personate the Yellow Fever in many of its alarming symptoms; but it differs from the fever in this essential character, in not being contagious, for which reason it should not become the subject of general apprehension. I have presumed that the patient who died at the Hospital had not the Yellow Fever, because his disease was not contagious. His companions, who lived with him, and sickened after him in the same place, did not take the Yellow Fever, but sickened with a different disease; but I take for granted that the Yel-

low Fever is infectious, and that it has more than once been imported. I have presumed also that the complaint alluded to was not the Yellow Fever, because, upon the supposition that the Yellow Fever is a domestic disease and not contagious, it would follow that it cannot be imported, in which case the foundation of our Quarantine Law would vanish into air; but that law seems to be the dictate of prudence and parent of much safety.

I am, sir, with the utmost respect,
your most obedient and
very humble servant,

HUGH WILLIAMSON.

The Hon. DE WITT CLINTON."

" New-York, August 3, 1805.

" SIR,

" In consequence of your request, I visited the quarantine ground, in company with Drs. Hosack and Williamson. While there, our attention was principally directed to two persons, who had been taken ill at Mr. Stayley's, in Maiden lane, and who were reported to have had Yellow Fever. After an attentive examination, as to the mode of attack, and the symptoms which had since supervened, I feel great pleasure in declaring to you, that none of these characteristics, which peculiarly designate that disease, were in either of these instances, to be detected; on the contrary, I consider them merely as cases of the common Bilious Fever, which, for many years past, has prevailed more or less in New-York, during the months of summer.

With sentiments of respect, Sir,

I remain your very humble servant,

JAMES S. STRINGHAM.

The Hon. DE WITT CLINTON."

DEPOSITION

OF MR. ANDREW STAYLEY, ALLUDED TO IN DR. HOSACK'S
LETTER.

Andrew Stayley, of the city of New-York, keeper of a livery stable, No. 92 Maiden-lane, deposes, that "Christopher Hibbron was in his employ as hostler, and that on the 9th inst. he complained of pains in the ancles and legs, which made the deponent believe, that he had the rheumatism; that on Wednesday morning, he was unable to do his work; that, in the afternoon, he drank a great deal of cold water (which he had been in the habit of drinking after taking salts, also of taking salts frequently, working afterwards in the sun, although he had not taken salts that day, but a few days before) from the pump in the yard, which is of a very hard quality, and that about an hour or two afterwards, he fell down sick in the stable, in attempting to harness a horse, and that the deponent immediately called in Dr. Manley, who bled and blistered the patient; that on Friday night, there was a stoppage of urine, and on Saturday morning, he complained of a continuance of pains in the legs and ancles; that Dr. Manley, on the evening of Saturday, administered a remedy for the stoppage of water, which produced a vomiting soon after: on Sunday morning he had a stool, and his water came; that he turned yellow on the stoppage of his urine; that, on Sunday morning, the deponent called in Dr. Walker, and the Resident Physician, by his advice, was called in about twelve o'clock of that day; and that, on the Thursday following, he was sent down to the Marine Hospital; that on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday previously, he was much better; that on Tuesday he walked in the yard, and washed his feet in rain water; that on Wednesday, he ate plentifully of soup, and said he was bravely, and wished to go to work; that on Wednesday night he had a relapse, and appeared to be delirious, and that a bleeding of the nose took place on Thursday; that

the deponent attended him during his sickness in this city; that he arrived in this place from England, on the 12th of May last, and continued from the 14th of that month, in the deponent's service; that he was a man of strict temperance, kept good hours, and had never been out late at night, but the night before his sickness, when he did not come home until one in the morning, having been to visit a shipmate of his in Oak-street; that he had hardly ever been out of the yard of the deponent; that there was nothing offensive or nauseous about the deponent's premises; they, on the contrary, being remarkably clean; that William Aylesbury, another hostler in the deponent's employment, took sick last Thursday, and was sent to the Hospital with Hibbron; that he was somewhat intemperate, and had been intoxicated that day; that James Kirkwood, another hostler, also in the deponent's employment, took sick on Saturday last, and was sent down on Tuesday; that his symptoms were the same as those of Hibbron, as well as Aylesbury; that the two last persons were in the habit of taking salts, drinking cold water, and exposing themselves to the sun in like manner as Hibbron.

ANDREW STAYLEY.

Sworn 26th July, 1805, before }
De Witt Clinton. }

The further examination of Andrew Stayley, who being duly sworn, deposes, "that when Dr. Manley was first called in, he stated that he believed Hibbron, in consequence of pains in his ancles and legs, had the rheumatism; that the patient did not complain of pains elsewhere. Dr. Manley was called in on Wednesday night. Christopher Hibbron first complained on Tuesday night. The first symptoms of indisposition was vomiting. He threw up his supper. Dr. Manley, on Wednesday evening, bled and blistered him, his tongue having a white fur upon it. On Thursday, the patient said, that were it not for the

pains in his legs, he would get up and go to work: made no complaint of any pains in his back or head. On Wednesday, his countenance sunk to a death-like appearance. On Friday he felt so much better, as to walk about the yard, sit at the door and eat panado; but walked lame, and said if it were not for the rheumatism, he would go to work. Hitherto, his evacuations by stool were of a natural appearance. On Friday night there was a suppression of urine. The evacuation of urine of Friday morning was thick and yellow: he felt worse on Saturday night. Hibbron complained of his bowels on Saturday night. All the illness the deponent perceived, was arising from pains in the lower part of the belly, in his limbs, and stoppage of urine. He did not suppose him dangerous. On Sunday morning, the patient felt himself alarmed, and wished for more medical assistance; he walked down stairs to the necessary, and returned easier. He turned of a high bright yellow (between gold and orange). A blister was applied to the pit of his stomach, by Drs. Manley and Walker; of the weight of which he complained. On Monday, as the deponent thinks, on dressing the blister, there was a discharge, from a wine glass to a gill of water, as yellow as his skin. Three or four days before he went to the Marine Hospital, he was worse in the evening, but better in the morning. On Sunday evening and the subsequent, he appeared delirious. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, his stools became of a light colour. On some day, between the first illness and Sunday, he had a dark stool, as Stayley was informed, but did not see it. On the Wednesday after he was first taken, his complexion was of a pale livid colour; his eyes not inflamed. Throughout the whole of his illness, his complexion was uniformly pale. There was the most unlimited intercourse between the family and patient; the children played with him. On Monday night, he visited his fel-

low passenger, a gunsmith, in Oak-street. On his return home, about one o'clock at night, Mr. Stayley could not but remark that he had been drinking, being somewhat merry; but not intoxicated. The deponent states, that he is particularly careful as to the cleanliness of his stable yard. That William Aylesbury was removed the same day he was taken sick, and had arrived here from England, some time in May last, and resided with the deponent, as hostler, from that time; that Aylesbury complained of pains in his legs, although the deponent did not believe him; that he was in the habit of laying his head out of the window at night, and, in other respects, followed the same mode of life, as to hours, as the other hostlers; that when he took sick, he vomited a good deal, and drank brandy. That James Kirkwood, the other hostler, took sick as before-mentioned, and complained at first, of pains in his legs, and the deponent does not recollect of pains in the back or head; that he told the deponent, that he had not had a passage but once, for fourteen days before, and then about eight days previous; that he was very sick on the day of his removal, vomited a good deal, and was considerably thirsty, and so lame, that he could scarcely walk, and complained, at the same time, of a violent pain in his belly; in vomiting, he did not throw up any thing, except what appeared to be the food and drink he had recently taken; that he was from Scotland, and had arrived here some time last fall or winter, and was a man of temperate habits; that when he took sick, and some days afterwards, he appeared pale, and his eyes did not indicate unusual redness.

ANDREW STAYLEY.

Sworn 29th July, 1805; before

De Witt Clinton.

On the 7th of August, the Secretary was directed "to request of the physicians who may have

seen, or shall hereafter see any cases, or suspected cases of Malignant, Yellow, or Pestilential Fever, in this city, this season, all such information as they may possess, respecting the origin and nature of the disease in question."

In consequence of which, the Secretary wrote a circular letter to the physicians of the city; to which, he received the following answers, from Drs. Hosack and Walker.

"New-York, August 5th, 1805.

TO THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF
HEALTH.

"GENTLEMEN,

"In reply to your letter of the 3d instant, requesting 'any information tending to illustrate the origin and nature of any real or supposed cases of Malignant Fever, which may have occurred in this city, the present season,' I am happy to remark, that the only cases of Malignant Fever, either *real* or *supposed*, that I have seen in the present season, were the hostlers from Stayley's livery-stable, in Maiden-lane, two of whom I visited at the quarantine ground, and Mr. Dougherty, the clerk of Moore and Storey.

"For the account of the first of those cases, I beg leave to refer to my letter to the Mayor, which contains all the facts I have been enabled to obtain relative to them.

"On Tuesday morning, July the 30th, about nine o'clock, Dr. Riddle, for the first time, requested me to visit with him in consultation, Mr. Dougherty in Water-street, a clerk in the employ of Messrs. Moore and Storey, which I did immediately.

“ As soon as I entered the room of the patient, I perceived his skin to be of a dusky yellow colour, especially about the neck and chest. He lay in a state of stupor; but upon Dr. Riddle’s raising his eye-lids, to shew me the state of his eyes, I observed them also to be of the same yellow colour with the skin; his pulses were slow, not exceeding 60 in a minute, but soft and of their natural healthy fulness—his skin was temperate—his tongue was moist, and nearly of its natural appearance, excepting somewhat furred in its centre; upon speaking to the patient, I found his mind to be quite incoherent. Enquiring into the state of his stomach, I was told it had been so much afflicted by vomiting, that the Doctor had found it necessary to apply a large blister; but notwithstanding this application, the vomiting still continued. The matter discharged was represented to me, both by the Doctor and the nurse, to be *very black*. As it had been just carried out of the room, I did not see it.

“ Dr. Riddle informed me, that his patient had been sick since the preceding Wednesday, the 24th inst. that this was the *seventh day* of his disease—that he was attacked with *excruciating pains in the forehead*, immediately over the eyes, attended also with pains in the *back and limbs*—that his eyes were suffused with blood—that his countenance was also of a *highly florid colour*. Upon retiring, I did not hesitate to express to Dr. Riddle, my belief of the nature of the disease. Dr. Riddle immediately replied, that the patient had not been out of the city. Upon enquiring of the gentlemen, in whose employ he had been, the answer was the same; but a lady sitting at the table, and accidentally hearing the question, immediately remarked, that some time since, he had been down at Staten-Island, to procure letters from some of the passengers then detained at quarantine. As she could not ascertain the time precisely, she referred us to his cousin, who was then attending him.

The cousin stated, that the Sunday preceding, was the *third Sunday* since he had been down at the island. I asked her if she meant *three weeks* from the last Sunday? she said no, but the "third Sunday." Lest there might be some mistake, and Dr. Riddle expressing some doubt, we went up stairs a second time, when she, as before, stated that it was not *three weeks*, but that the last *Sunday* was the "*third Sunday*" since he went down to the island. Hence it appears, that the patient had been at the quarantine ground, on Sunday the 14th instant, and that he was taken sick on Wednesday the 24th instant, ten days after. Dr. Riddle, doubtless, has made the same distinction in his report to the Board of Health, otherwise it would induce a belief, that *seventeen* days had elapsed between his visit to the quarantine ground, and the time of his attack; whereas, the interval was but *ten* days. As the patient was near his dissolution, I immediately made a report to the Mayor, of the case and the circumstance attending it—the steps afterwards pursued by the Board of Health, and the result your records contain.

"Having never, gentlemen, met with a case of fever attended with the above-mentioned symptoms, that could not be traced to *contagion*, I cannot but believe, that in this instance also, the patient had been exposed to the atmosphere of an infected vessel, or to persons that had been sick, or in some way connected with the sick of the Yellow Fever.

"Had Mr. Dougherty not been out of the city, nor in any way exposed to the contagion, I should have wanted candor not to have acknowledged its domestic origin. Under the present circumstances, it certainly cannot be considered as generated here; the unusually healthy state of our city, is also directly opposed to this belief.

I am, gentlemen, with respect, yours,
DAVID HOSACK."

" New-York, August 11, 1805.

" GENTLEMEN,

" By the letter which I received a few days ago, from the Board of Health, I have been encouraged to relate the case of a man who fell sick of a disease, accompanied with very malignant symptoms, in an alley adjoining to Maiden-lane.

" This has been considered by myself, and a number of other witnesses, as an instance of our Malignant endemic or Yellow Fever. And I communicate it as such, in the face of those who admit that a febrile disease, with slighter symptoms than this case exhibits, is a true Yellow Fever, provided they can trace it to a sea-vessel, or something that has been brought from the West-Indies; but deny that the disease, I am about to describe, however malignant and violent; however distinguished by appropriate and characteristic signs is Yellow Fever, unless they can trace its origin in some occult cause of foreign derivation.

" The unfairness of which mode of reasoning, is only surpassed by the fashionable, but pernicious notion of deriving all our ills of this kind from distant places, without reflecting that in so doing, we lay down a precedent, authorizing all the inhabitants abroad, to retort our charges of imported infection, to recriminate with positiveness and pertinacity equal to ours, to assail ourselves, climate and institutions, with as much railing and abuse as we bestow upon them and theirs, and finally to have thereby confirmed the natives of Cuba, Jamaica, St. Domingo, and other islands of the south, who are mighty sticklers for the purity and healthiness of their respective places, that they should always escape the Yellow Fever, if they had no commercial connection with New-York, Philadelphia, Charleston, and the other foul and pestilential cities, situated on the continent of North America.

And in this way the favourers of importation, like Ishmael, raise indeed their hands against every man, and ought to remember that every man's hand will be raised against them. But as it is my chief intention to relate to the board an instance of Yellow Fever, which occurred this season, in the course of my practice, I shall detail the particulars, with all the plainness and candor that I possess, without *forging* a chain of connection with the West-Indies, on the one part, or concealing or disguising facts as plain as noon-day, on the other.

“ Christopher Hibbron, aged about thirty, born in Yorkshire (England) arrived at New-York early in May last, in the ship Hudson, from Liverpool. On the fourteenth of the same month, he was retained in the service of Andrew Stayley, No. 92 Maiden-lane, in the capacity of an hostler, with whom he resided until he was removed to Staten-Island. He possessed a mild and obliging disposition; was not subject to violent passions, nor did he indulge in dissipation or intemperance; he seldom went from home, his employment requiring all his attention, from early in the morning, until late at night.

“ He enjoyed good health from the time of his arrival in this country, until the ninth day of July last; when he complained of great languor, aversion to motion, and depression of spirits.

“ The next day following, he was suddenly seized with vertigo, and fell upon the ground; this affection soon subsided, and was succeeded by constant nausea and frequent vomiting of bilious matter, accompanied by acute pains in the calves of his legs and knees, which gradually progressed upwards, until his thighs, back and head were equally affected; the pain was excruciating, and there seemed to be a spasmodic action of the muscles of his legs. These affec-

tions induced him to speak of extreme cold, being applied to his body; this sensation almost immediately passed off, and great irritation, tumult and excitement of the vascular system became very conspicuous. The pain at this time seemed to be altogether removed from the lower extremities, and fixed in his back and head; pulse 100 or upwards, hard, labouring and irregular; heat of the body burning and concentrated; skin dry and rough; tongue white, slimy, and moist; countenance flushed, agitated and anxious; eyes red, disturbed, watery and wandering.

“ Dr. Manley judiciously prescribed bleeding, blistering, bowels evacuated, and the antiphlogistic regimen enjoined.

“ On the third day of his disease, the violence of the symptoms were greatly subdued; eye and countenance more natural and cheerful; tongue dry and rough; continual thirst; fœces charged with yellow or bilious matter; pain in the stomach and nausea; skin moist, but rather clammy and cool when lightly touched, but when hard pressed, conveyed a sensation of morbid heat; pulse soft and swelling.

“ There were no particular variation of symptoms during the fourth and fifth days of his disease; but on the sixth day, he complained of great pain and uneasiness throughout his body; this, however, soon became local, and was confined to his stomach and urinary bladder, attended with vomiting and suppression of urine, his skin was dry, and the heat unequal. His medical treatment, was full and regular; at this time blistered freely; alkalies with acids; Sp. Nit. Dul. tepid bathing; injections; fomentations; calomel and opium, &c. &c. every thing requisite under such circumstances. On the morning of the seventh day of disease, there obtained a copious discharge of urine, loaded with a dark coloured matter; fœces

having the appearance of tar or molasses, pain in the stomach, constant vomiting, which was no longer bilious, but rejecting every thing thrown into it. The colour of his skin was, on this day, completely changed; in health, his skin is uncommonly fair, but its present bright and general yellowness is beyond all description; it bears a strong analogy to a high colouring of gambouge upon fine glazed paper.

“ The eighth and ninth days of his disease were not marked by any particular occurrence. On the tenth, his pulse was slow and regular, apparently soft and full; a great proportion of animal heat retired from the extremities; discharge from his bowels, black and seemingly charged with blood; confused and irregular ideas; delirium; hæmorrhage from his nose; his tongue was loaded with a dark brown thick incrustation; skin moist but evidently morbid, and widely different from the warm and fluid moisture arising from an healthy action of the extreme vessels; sighing, anxiety, throwing his arms and legs from one side of the bed to the other; a constant desire to change his situation, without assigning a cause; hick-up, with a mahogany countenance, and a variety of malignant symptoms, not easily described. In the evening of this day he was removed to Staten-Island; vomiting of black matter came on, during his passage, and continued at intervals until he died, which took place on the thirteenth day of his disease, attended with all the horrid and awful appearances that usually occur in malignant cases of concentrated endemic, or Yellow Fever.

“ I have sought with all the diligence and care that I possess, for the origin of this frightful disease. It has been impossible for me to trace it to any ship or vessel whatever. And indeed if I had been able to do so, it would not have followed, that the unclean rubbish of a ship had been taken on board in

bulk at a foreign port, and not have been engendered and manufactured within her.

“ For a ship, from her construction and use, being first a manufactory of pestilential matter, and then a vehicle to transport it from place to place, wherever she goes, is herself the local source of the greatest part of that very mischief, which is unreasonably ascribed to the ports between which she sails.

“ As to local nuisances in and about the alley and stable, where the man lived and worked, there did not appear to be any one, which could be fairly supposed to excite the disease; for it would be extravagant to ascribe such to stable-dung.

“ As far as I can penetrate the cause of this disease, I will state it. The patient was an Englishman; he had been accustomed to a portion of earth and atmosphere, by far cooler than ours; he had the northern constitution and habits of a Yorkshire man, and he had been but a short time in our city.

“ It is well known when men of such temperaments migrate to the south, they commonly undergo a seasoning as it is called, to their new place of residence; Englishmen have to undergo this operation when they remove hither, as our own people are obliged to submit to it, when they move to Orleans. Men so circumstanced, often become diseased before they are reconciled to their new situations, and in many cases, the stamina of life break before they can be bent to the required shape.

“ In the case of Hibbron, there was the ordinary predisposition of an English stranger, and he seems to have fallen a victim to the combined agency of causes, which a native scarcely feels, because he is seasoned and habituated to them, but which frequent-

ly act with irresistible powers upon visitors from the north.

With sentiments of high respect and esteem,
I remain your most obedient,

RICHARD L. WALKER.

The President and Members }
of the Board of Health." }

The following extract of a letter from Dr. Manley, published in the Morning Chronicle, will shew that gentleman's opinion of the disease in question.

" I shall now take the liberty of examining briefly, such parts of Dr. Hosack's letter, as relate to the case of Hibbron. ' It appeared,' said the Doctor, ' that he had voided blood from his intestines, and that he had died of mortification of the bowels.' As I am the person more interested in the opinion which the public shall form of this case, than any other man, I should be glad to know, for the sake of information, how it appeared to him, that he died with a mortification of the bowels. As a man of candor, his reasons for such an opinion should have appeared in print as well as the opinion itself, and he is hereby informed, that they are still expected. He could not draw this conclusion from the circumstance of the man's voiding blood, for this we see every day occurring in cases of the Dysentary; yet we do not believe the mortification of the bowels to exist any length of time, proportionate to the duration of the disease; we know that patients will labour under the most aggravated form of Dysentary for the term of six weeks, and during all that time pass blood; comparatively few instances even then are found to terminate in mortification of the intestines, as has been repeatedly proved upon dissection. But suppose for a moment, that the man had mortification of bowels, as expressed, how is it possible to be accounted for? the mortification surely was not the consequence of the application of a caustic; it must have been preceded by

inflammation; if such inflammation did exist, it must have been apparent, from the torturing pain, the obstinate costiveness, and the peculiarity of pulse, which in such cases, do exist, and he must have died, according to the common course of such a disease, long ere the termination of the thirteenth day of his illness—neither of which circumstances did obtain. I therefore shall rest satisfied in the belief, that he did not die with mortification of his bowels, as a primary disease, as represented; and the public will, no doubt, do themselves the justice to withhold their belief of such a statement, until more clearly proved.

“ I asked the Health-Officer in particular, whether he had the black vomit?” He answered, “ that he did throw up a dark coloured matter, as he was informed by the nurse.” The question was then urged in a more precise shape, and he was asked “ if he had the particular species of black vomit which attends the Yellow Fever, either the coffee ground, or the flaky?” He answered, “ no, *he could not say he had.*”

“ The public will observe, that the last sentence here given, as delivered by the Health-Officer, was not divided into two distinct parts, as Dr. Hosack would wish it to be believed, by printing one part in capitals, and another in italics. I pledge myself that Dr. Rodgers did not expect to be thus understood, when he was more particularly interrogated whether the vomiting was either the *coffee ground* or the *flaky*? He answered he did not know; the information he had received from the nurse; he himself had not seen it, and he possessed too just a sense of the value of truth, to assert that for fact, which rested merely upon the statement of one of the hospital attendants. Dr. Hosack’s enquiry of the Health-Officer, amounts of course to nothing more nor less than *he could not precisely define the appearance of the matter, having*

never seen it. It is certain, however, that the patient had an irritable stomach during the whole course of his disease, and that he had black vomiting before he arrived at Staten-Island; and whether he had or had not, is not a circumstance essentially necessary to the point in question. *Had Hibbron Yellow Fever?* It is acknowledged, on all hands, that Yellow Fever, notwithstanding it is a disease of peculiar malignity, does not possess one single symptom which, taken alone, can characterize it. Again, if it be necessary that black vomiting should be present to constitute the disease Yellow Fever, at least nine out of ten attacked by it must die; for in cases where that symptom obtains to any extent, the chances of recovery are still less than this proportion, as will appear from the experience of many of our most able physicians. *Yellow Fever, though malignant, is not so generally fatal as would thus appear.*

“ Dr. Hosack thus concludes his letter. ‘ I have no doubt that the illness of those three men was the effect of *cold*, from exposure to the *night air*, and excepting Kirkwood, of intemperance, and that their disease was the *common Bilious Fever* of our country, to which strangers (as all those persons were) are particularly liable on their first arrival. And I have no hesitation to pronounce, that after a minute, and, I trust, a candid and impartial examination of all the facts, that there has been no Yellow Fever in either of the above cases, but that the unnecessary and injurious alarm which has, in this instance, been raised and propagated respecting our city, has been without any adequate cause to justify it.’

“ It will here readily appear to the reader, that the Doctor, with all his caution, has not been able to avoid absurdity. He, in the first part of this letter, imputes the death of Hibbron to a mortification of the bowels, and now in common with Kirkwood and

Aylesbury, he had the common Bilious Fever of our country, to which strangers are particularly liable; this needs no further comment; the contradiction would scarcely have been more apparent if it had occurred in the same sentence.

“ I shall now conclude my observations on this letter, by remarking upon the candor and humanity of Dr. Hosack, which charged Hibbron with being accessory to his own death, when, if he had not known, the least enquiry would have satisfied him that he was a man temperate even to a fault, if I may so express it. Mr. Stayley told me, when speaking of his habits, that he had never seen him intoxicated during the whole time he was in his employ, and that it was with difficulty he could prevail upon him during the warm weather, to drink any other thing than cold water; yet the illness of these three men was the effect of cold, from exposure to the night air, and excepting Kirkwood, of intemperance.

“ I have now said all that the public required of me, and no more. It was my intention to have analyzed the letter of Dr. Hosack, on the case of Dougherty; but that, I am informed, will come from its proper source, in the course of a few days, and as that case affords ample matter for a lengthy comment, we trust that it will meet with its merited attention. I trust that I have done away all injurious impressions that the public may have entertained of me, as the physician of Hibbron; and I likewise hope that I have done some service to the public, in exposing the designed misrepresentations in the above case.

“ I shall only observe, in regard to the paragraph in Mr. Coleman's last evening paper, that if ‘ by those who know better,’ he would be understood as meaning Dr. Hosack and himself—he is perfectly

correct ; since they (and their communications) alone prompted me to come before the public.

JAMES R. MANLEY."

" DEAR SIR,

" As you have requested the most important facts in the cases of Hibbron, Aylesbury and Kirkwood, I have been as particular as my memory, (aided by nurses and patients) admit of.

" Christopher Hibbron was received into the Marine Hospital on the 18th inst. late at night. The morning of the 19th, I first visited him. His body was of a dusky yellow, especially his face ; his eyes were yellow, and the blood vessels turgid ; his tongue covered with a dark brown fur, but moist, except at the edges, which were dry, and darker than the rest ; pulse full, soft and frequent, beats 100 ; mind collected ; he had ten or twelve thin evacuations in as many hours, which were of a dark bloody colour ; urine reddish and turbid ; he vomited four times, at an interval of twelve hours between each, except the last twenty-four hours of his life, when he did not throw up any thing ; the fluid vomited was the colour of porter, with some ash coloured mucous floating in it, except immediately after he was admitted, which is stated to have been very dark ; porter was his drink, and when he did vomit, it was shortly after he drank ; volatile alkali and laudanum were prescribed for him, which produced a free perspiration, and lessened the number of his stools ; at night blisters were applied to his ancles.

" 20th. The same medicines were continued, he having expressed sensible relief therefrom ; some coma taking place, a blister was applied between his shoulders, which drew well ; during the night he had a dark green stool, of natural consistence.

“ 21st. Coma increased ; pulse soft and quick ; medicines continued, with the infusion of bark as the vehicle ; blisters applied to the legs, and cataplasms to the feet.

“ 22d. All the symptoms increased, with laborious breathing ; had several convulsions, and died at three o'clock, P. M. *N. B.* He bled several times at the nose.

“ William Aylesbury was admitted into the Marine Hospital with Hibbron. His body was of a natural colour ; eyes slightly inflamed ; tongue white ; pulse tense and frequent ; skin hot ; had taken a cathartic, which had ceased its operation before he came here ; a sudorific was given at short intervals, with acidulated tepid drink, which caused a free perspiration ; had several dark green stools ; urine turbid and high coloured ; in the evening complained of heat and fulness at his stomach, with increased pain in the back part of his head, and aching of his back and limbs ; twenty-four ounces of blood was taken from him, which produced relief.

“ 20th. Had the same sensations at his stomach and head as last night ; pulse full and frequent ; bled him eight ounces ; sudorific mixture continued ; in the evening costive ; mixture omitted ; took 10 grains of calomel every four hours, and rub mercurial ointment on the thighs ; had many dark green stools during the night, and vomited once some light greenish bile, which was very bitter.

“ 21st. Calomel and opium were directed, and mercurial frictions continued night and morning.

“ 22d. Remedies as yesterday ; his eyes have a yellow tinge. 23d. His body generally of a yellow hue ; bled twice at the nose ; his breath has the mercurial

taint ; complains of soreness of his gums , medicines as before.

“ 24th. Medicines discontinued ; complains very much of the soreness of his mouth ; stools, of which he has had several daily, are of a very dark green ; took a solution of soda.

“ 25th. Bled at the nose ; stools lighter ; his jaws swollen ; from the 25th to the 30th, under the influence of mercury.

“ 30th. His yellowness, which when at its height, was of a dusky yellow, is rapidly lessening ; stools continue green ; the swelling of his face diminishing, and he is recovering.

“ James Kirkwood was taken into the Hospital on the 24th inst. his skin of a natural colour ; eyes slightly suffused with blood and heavy ; tongue white ; pulse full and slow ; complained of pain in his head, back and limbs ; took a cathartic, which operated freely ; opened a vein, but only a few ounces flowed ; stools green ; at night calomel and opium were administered every four hours ; very copious vomiting of a light green bile ensued ; mercurial ointment was applied to his legs and thighs.

“ 25th. Complains more than yesterday ; had a very restless night ; calomel was exhibited in a smaller quantity, and the opium increased every four hours, but his vomiting continuing, was obliged to omit them ; a solution of soda in mint water, with the addition of laudanum was given ; this allayed the irritability of his stomach, and he had a much better night ; his stools of a lighter green ; pulse full and slow. 26th and 27th. solution of soda in mint continued ; laudanum omitted ; pulse full and slow, beats 60 ; he is mending. 28th, 29th

and 30th. Pulse from 52 to 56 beats in a minute ; full and soft ; complains of a soreness in his gums ; he walks about, and is in the use of tonic remedies ; his evacuations have a slight tinge of green, in other respects natural.

JOSEPH BAYLEY.

Dr. JOHN R. B. RODGERS."

On the 24th August, Mr. Andrew Stayley, the gentleman in whose house the three hostlers had taken sick, became indisposed, and on the third day thereafter, was sent to the Marine Hospital. It was, indeed, his own desire to go there, as he had heard a most favourable report of the institution from James Kirkwood, who had been sent down sick, and a few days before Mr. Stayley's removal, had come up perfectly recovered. Soon after Mr. Stayley went down, the Secretary wrote a letter to the Health-Officer, to which he received the following answer.

" Quarantine Ground, August 26th, 1805.

" DEAR SIR,

" Your anxiety respecting your friend Stayley, induces me to inform you that he is still very ill, but from his having had a better night the last than before, and having a clean and airy apartment, and a situation giving him as pure an air as the island affords, I am yet in hopes he may do well. He had yesterday a most distressing hiccup, and this has occasionally come on this morning, but by no means so severe as before. He had yesterday a disposition to bleed freely wherever he scratched himself, and his pulse intermitted frequently. The tendency to hæmorrhage has gone off this morning, and his pulses are more regular ; he speaks, though with a quickness that shews his brain is still affected. The other man of Stayley's is much better.

“ I find by the public prints, that what was said to the three gentlemen who visited the Marine Hospital, on the 27th of July last, has been put in a very improper point of view, and that there are some omissions of necessary truth. Whether this proceeds from design, I cannot say ; but as the account has been given to the Board of Health, to whom I owe respect, and with whom I am officially connected, I esteem it my duty to make the present communication, and to state all the circumstances of the visit.

“ On the 27th of July, Drs. Williamson, Hosack and Stringham came to see me at the quarantine ground ; they arrived while we were at breakfast ; after the usual compliments, and being seated at the table with the family, one of the gentlemen, (Dr. Hosack) said that they had come to make enquiry relative to the cases of fever which had been sent down from the city to the Marine Hospital. I immediately told them that, if they wished information for themselves, I would give it with pleasure, but that what we had said at the quarantine ground, had sometimes gone into the public papers without our permission, and sometimes been misrepresented—that if it were required by those in authority, I would at any time give in writing, all the information in my power, but that what I should say then, or at other times in conversation, was not to go into the public papers, or serve the purposes of party or controversy, and that if they intended my answers to do this, I should be perfectly silent. They all of them replied that they had no such idea ; and under the persuasion of being candidly dealt with, I proceeded in the conversation.

“ I held them, from what was said and from their manner, as much under the obligations of honour and good faith, that the conditions prescribed would

be strictly performed, as if they had expressed the terms in writing, and bound themselves in a bond, or by an oath; and all those who respect the obligations of hospitality, will look on such a tie as paramount. Very soon after this stipulation, I was asked if they might go into the Hospital. I replied, that if they had any request from the Mayor, the Commissioners of the Health-Office, or the Board of Health to that effect, they should be admitted, but if not, that I must think of it. Upon which Dr. Williamson produced the Mayor's letter for that purpose. I immediately told them that they should be admitted. I now entered on the account of the case of Hibbron—I told them that he had died some days before—that he came to us with all the symptoms of Yellow Fever, and died with that complaint. I was asked what his appearance was? I said he was very yellow. I was asked if it were a bright yellow, with an observation of the gentleman asking the question, making a distinction between the yellow colour accompanying Jaundice and Yellow Fever. I told him that the yellow was deep, but of a dirty hue, and that his eyes were deeply and extremely suffused with red and yellow, and that he had that cast of countenance and that peculiar look of Yellow Fever, which no one acquainted with that disease could mistake—that he had a bleeding from his nose—that his stools were bloody—that his stomach was very irritable, and that he frequently vomited. I was asked (while I was in the detail) if he had black vomit? I went on to say that he had vomited dark coloured matter, as the nurse informed me, but that I had not seen it myself.

“I was then asked whether it was of a flaky appearance, or of the nature of coffee grounds? I told the gentlemen asking, that I could not say, for that I had not seen it. At the same time I remarked to the gentlemen that many died of yellow fever without any black vomit, or even dark matter ejected

from the stomach. The insinuation, therefore, that what I then said was at variance with what I had before expressed to the Board of Health, or that I evaded any questions or intended to evade them is neither consistent with fact nor candor. The manner of answering the first question prevented evasion, for I had distinctly said that I had not seen the matter vomited myself, but had received my information from the nurse. No questions were asked about his pulse. As soon as we rose from breakfast we went to the hospital; the first person seen was Aylesbury; he was asked by Dr. Hosack if he had any pain on his first attack, and where it was, if in his legs and knees? He answered yes, in his legs and knees—on the small of his back and in his head.—Dr. H. asked him if his stomach had been affected before he came here? He said yes, that he had vomited. Dr. H. asked if it were yellow or bitter matter? He said it was black. BLACK! said Dr. H. with apparent surprize—of a deep green replied he then—he was asked what was the colour of his stools,—He answered dark coloured—his urine was in the chamber pot and was inspected by the gentlemen, and was high coloured. He was asked if it stained his linen? He replied yes. These answers were partly given by Aylesbury, and partly by his wife, his mouth being sore from the use of mercury. He had at this time a dusky yellow tinge on his skin and eyes, and his eyes looked as if they had been inflamed. The person who came in last was then asked by Dr. H. if he had any pain on his first attack? He said yes, in his head and limbs. He was asked in what part of his head? He said in the back part of his head, and put his hand to the hinder part of it—if he had any pain in his back? He said yes. This examination did not take up more than six or eight minutes; not ten I am sure. The questions asked, and the answers given were written down directly after the gentlemen left the quarantine wharf, and

within three quarters of an hour after they were asked, they were taken to the hospital, and there read to Aylesbury and his wife, in the presence of Dr. Bayley, and declared by them to be correct. Upon leaving this ward, Dr. Bayley came up to us on the green in front of the long Hospital. I handed him the Mayor's letter, and stated to him the object of the visit of the gentlemen; at the same time I told him that I had expressly said to them, that nothing which he or I should say, was to go into the newspapers, or be made the subject of controversy. Dr. Bayley told them, that he considered Hibbron's case as a mixed one, but that if he were to class it, or were on his oath, he should say it was Yellow Fever—that he had a mortification of his bowels before he died. Here you will observe that Dr. Hosack has kept back part of what Dr. Bayley said, and has misstated part; for Dr. Bayley never said that Hibbron died of a mortification of his bowels. He expressed himself in such a manner as to shew that the mortification of the bowels was a symptom of the disease, and not the disease itself. These are the leading circumstances of what occurred on that visit. How any one can infer from what I said, or from what I heard Dr. Bayley say, that the case of Hibbron was not Yellow Fever, is to me very strange. It is equally surprising to find gentlemen denying the existence of a disease, because they cannot see how it was produced, or the truth of a fact, because they cannot account for it. Such a mode of reasoning or conduct would soon land in the region of downright scepticism. How many thousand truths are there that we cannot account for!

“ The facts in this case we know—We know that in this summer, as well as preceding ones, cases of Malignant Fever have occurred, which could not be traced to any connection with ships or infected persons—We have seen this summer already, the cases

of Mrs. Pfifer, Dougherty, and the four men from Stayley's—these all shew that Malignant Fever exists, and they shew the solemn truth that it is of domestic origin. We must not shut our eyes upon the truth. The law under which we act, recognizes *internal* as well as *external* causes of disease, and it is our duty to look to both; but while we know these things, I look upon it as improper to make them the subject of newspaper discussion—the public mind may be irritated and inflamed, but it can never be directed in a proper course on such a subject, in this way. Before I conclude, permit me to say that I find no fault with Dr. Williamson or Dr. Stringham; as it related to me personally they have my respect; and their abstaining from saying a word of what was told to them, shews that they felt and acted under that obligation which I have before mentioned.

With much respect,

I am, Dear Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN R. B. RODGERS.

Mr. James Hardie, Secretary
to the Board of Health." }

I have been thus particular in communicating all the documents, of which I was possessed, either in favour of importation or local origin, in order that my readers may the better be enabled to judge for themselves. In the case of Mr. Dougherty, however, it is necessary to state, that there are two affidavits taken before the Mayor; the one by Captain Smith, of the ship Endeavour, and the other by Mr. Storey, of the firm of Moore and Storey; both of which are to the same purport, viz. that "the said Dougherty was down to the quarantine ground on the *seventeenth* day, previous to his being taken sick; and that they had reason to believe that he was on board of no vessel whatever, as they saw him at Vanduser's ferry, where he continued only for a short time, and went,

as they supposed, directly to New-York." But it can be of little consequence to ascertain, whether he had been on board of any vessel at quarantine ground or not, as the following extract of a letter from the Health Officer, of date August 7th, in answer to one written to him by the Secretary, will clearly shew that there could be no possibility of contagion at the quarantine ground.

"In answer to yours of yesterday, I have to say, that no case of Yellow Fever has existed, either at the hospital, or on board the shipping at the quarantine ground, since the 1st of July last, except those sick persons who have been sent from the city of New-York."

With respect to the case of Mr. Stayley and the men who were taken sick at his house, it appears difficult to assign any probable cause. The different physicians who visited them, previous to their being sent down to Staten-Island, perceived no nuisance of any kind, which could possibly be supposed to have engendered a pestilential disorder. But as it was determined to use every precaution, Hibbron and Aylesbury, the first two patients, were no sooner removed than, as has already been observed, their bedding and wearing apparel were destroyed, and the apartment in which they had lain, as well as those adjoining to it, were thoroughly cleansed and white-washed. The same process was likewise repeated, at the time Kirkwood was removed. The yard and all the adjoining premises, were examined by me with the greatest care, but nothing was discovered, which could, in the least, be suspected to be the cause of so dreadful a malady. It had, indeed, been said, that a privy situated directly under the window of the room, in which Mr. Stayley commonly sat, emitted a very offensive smell; but upon examination, it appeared, that it was at the distance of

at least six feet from the window, that it was very deep, and that it was kept as clean as any in the city; besides, the hostler who *first* got sick, resided in a part of the house, the most remote from this privy. It cannot, therefore, be well supposed, that there was in it any cause of disease.

That there may, however, have been some reason of complaint, with respect to the premises, a short time before the evil commenced, although, most probably, not sufficient to have excited it, appears from the affidavit of a very respectable gentleman of this city, who deposes as follows :

City of New-York, ss.

Nathaniel Prime deposes, " that he recently kept his carriage at Mr. Stayley's livery-stable ; that in passing to it some short time before the men took sick, who were removed to the quarantine ground, he experienced a very disagreeable smell, which the deponent supposed to proceed, either from Mr. Stayley's or Mr. Cheetham's possessions, and which he ascribed to some old privy, the smell of which was probably excited by the removal of rubbish, as the yard, at that time, was undergoing a repair.

NATHANIEL PRIME.

Sworn 29th August, 1805, before }
De Witt Clinton."

Those acquainted with Mr. Prime will, no doubt, place the fullest confidence in the truth of his deposition. Still, however, there is reason to believe, that though an offensive smell might have been emitted from some old privy, either in Mr. Cheetham's or Mr. Stayley's yard, it could not, with propriety, have been considered as the cause of fever. Indeed, if the privy alluded to, can be supposed to have occasioned so great an evil, why, it may be asked, were not some persons taken sick in Mr. Cheetham's, to

whose house the privy was more contiguous? But, in the house of this gentleman, every one enjoyed good health, whilst in Mr. Stayley's, the case was widely different. To this source, therefore, the evil cannot, with propriety, be attributed.

There are also two depositions sworn to before his Honour the Mayor; the one by Mr. John Hyde, deceased, late keeper of the Tontine Coffee-House, dated the 5th of August, 1805; the other by Mrs. Catherine Stayley, widow of the late Mr. Andrew Stayley, dated the 5th of September, 1805. Although the substance of these depositions might be summed up in a very few words, yet, that there may be no room for an accusation of partiality to either of the theorists respecting the origin of Malignant Fever, I have deemed it most correct to give them at length.

“ John Hyde, keeper of the Tontine Coffee-House, deposes, that Andrew Stayley formerly lived in his employ as hostler; that the deponent went to Stayley's, the day after Hibbron, who lately died at the quarantine ground, was removed there, and enquired of him, the circumstances of Hibbron's case; that Stayley told the deponent, that Hibbron had been out an evening or two before he was taken sick, and had come, at a very late hour, rather in liquor; that he (Stayley) desired him to go to bed, and that Hibbron told him he had been on board some vessel, and had bought an English sheep; but that the sheep was never brought home, owing, as Stayley supposed, to Hibbron's sickness; that Stayley also told the deponent, that this was the first time that he knew of, that Hibbron had been out of the yard.

JOHN HYDE.

Sworn the 5th of August, 1805, }
before De Witt Clinton.” }

“ Catherine Stayley, widow of the late Andrew Stayley, livery-stabler, Maiden-lane, being duly

sworn, doth depose and say, that William Aylesbury told this deponent, that Christopher Hibbron, in his dying moments, had declared, that he was very sorry, he had told Mr. Stayley, that he had not been on board of any vessel; for that he had staid part of a night on board of a vessel at or near Long-Island; about eight days previous to his being taken sick; and further this deponent saith not.

CATHERINE STAYLEY.

Sworn the 5th September, 1805, }
before De Witt Clinton."

But although from the two last affidavits, it appears more than probable, that Hibbron had been on board of an English ship, yet there are few people who will suppose, that Yellow Fever could be brought to this country from that quarter. The truth is, it appears impracticable to assign any satisfactory reason for the diseases of Stayley and the hostlers who resided with him, unless we suppose, that, as they had lately come to this country, they had not as yet become sufficiently inured to the climate, to support the intense heat of an American summer; and that they had been imprudent in exposing themselves to the night air.

Various cases of Malignant Fever were reported by gentlemen, who believe in its local origin, during the latter part of August, and the beginning of September; but by those medical gentlemen who believe in its importation, they were, in general, supposed to be only the common Bilious Fever of the country.

To [give the advocates of both theories an equal chance, the Board of Health, on the 4th of September, "*Resolved*, that when any case of Malignant Fever shall be reported by medical gentlemen, who believe in the domestic origin of that disease, it shall be the duty of the Secretary to call upon some of those gentlemen, who espouse a different

theory, and that the physicians so employed, shall be paid by this board, and give their opinions in writing."

In consequence of the preceding resolution, the Secretary applied to Dr. Hosack. The following letters from that gentleman, will shew the proceedings which took place in consequence thereof.

" New-York, September 5th, 1805.

" DEAR SIR,

" Yesterday, at the request of the Board of Health, conveyed to me by the secretary, I visited John Pel-sue, No. 4, Church-street. His symptoms appear to me to be those of the last stage of the Yellow Fever. His short illness, and the manner of his attack, as related to me by his mother, also serve to confirm me in that opinion. His removal to the quarantine ground* will, I believe, afford him the best chance of recovery, and as it regards the health of our city, will certainly be a proper measure.

I am, Sir, respectfully your's, &c.

The Hon. DE WITT CLINTON."

" New-York, September 6th, 1805.

" DEAR SIR,

" Accompanied by Mr. Hardie, I visited, this morning, the following persons.

Patrick M. Loyre, in Thomas-street.

Mr. — Davis, 128 Front-street.

Alexander Addison, 132 Front-street.

* In consequence of the above recommendation, an order was made out for his removal; but his mother being very unwilling, and it appearing to the Secretary, that his dissolution was near at hand, it was not executed. He died next day, and it is evident that no evil resulted from his being permitted to remain, as every one of those who attended him, or were anywise connected with him, continued, throughout the whole season, to be exempt from any thing resembling Pestilential Fever.

Mr. Dooly, 110 Water-street, and
Mrs. Daly, in Pine-street.

"I also called in Augustus-street, with the intention to visit Mr. Brannon, but learned that he was dead. In the first five of the above, I cannot perceive any of the characteristic symptoms of the Yellow Fever. On the contrary, I trust the greater part of them, if not all, will recover with ordinary care and attention. Brannon being dead, I did not see him. This suggests to me the propriety of the board requesting physicians to report their cases of *Yellow Fever*, in the *early stage* of the disease, and not to defer their reports until the patients are so far advanced, that they are unable to answer those questions, which are necessary in the investigation of their complaints; and I believe it will not be denied, that in the *first stage* of the Yellow Fever, its *peculiar characters* are as strongly designated as in the *last stage*. I cannot but suspect, that many cases of the common *Bilious Fever* of our country, have been reported as cases of Yellow Fever, in consequence of the resemblance which exists in the last stage of most fevers at this season of the year. To distinguish them, it is necessary to see them in the early as well as in the last stage. I will be glad if the board will direct, that in any cases which they may wish me to visit, that I may see them as early as possible.

I am, respectfully your's,

DAVID HOSACK.

The Hon. DE WITT CLINTON."

"New-York, September 8th, 1805.

"DEAR SIR,

"In consequence of your note of yesterday, I called upon Dr. Servant, who had reported Mr. Paschal Smith, as ill of Malignant Fever. He informed me, that Mr. Smith's disease manifests the characteristic symptoms of the Yellow Fever.

" Nancy Ellis died this morning: not having it in my power to visit her last evening, I did not see her.

" Mr. Taylor, at 46 Cedar-street, is, in my opinion, in the last stage of the most malignant form of Yellow Fever. The disease of Mr. Long, in Ryder-street, I also believe to be of the same sort, but in a less violent degree.

" The existence of this disease in our city, being now ascertained by physicians who hold opposite opinions relative to the origin of yellow fever, and as it was the object of the board, in requesting me to visit some of the cases reported, to give an equal opportunity to the advocates of both doctrines, to ascertain the existence of this peculiar fever, I presume the board will now think it unnecessary for me to visit any more of those cases, which may hereafter be reported.

I am, Sir,

With regard, your's,

DAVID HOSACK.

John M. Pintard, Member of }
the Board of Health." }

At a meeting of the Board of Health, on the 6th of September, the following interesting communication was received from Dr. Sir James Jay.

" New-York, September 5th, 1805.

" SIR,

" The inclosed piece is written by a man, who is an impartial spectator of the scene going on among the faculty. Should the hints and observations it contains, contribute in the least to elucidate the controversy, and pave the way to truth, he will not re-

gret the trouble of writing it. You are at liberty to make what use of it you may think proper.

I remain, Sir,

Your very humble servant,

JAMES JAY.

DE WITT CLINTON, ESQ."

"When different opinions are entertained on a medical subject, and both parties pretend to found their system on facts, it is obvious, that the first step to be taken towards a true decision, is *accurately* to ascertain the principal facts on which a solid and conclusive judgment can be formed. Could this be done in the case of Yellow Fever, in such a way, that men of tolerable education and common sense, who are not of the profession, could easily see into the merits of the dispute, and form a rational and solid judgment on the subject, it would, I presume, afford considerable satisfaction, and be of no less utility.

"This, I think, might be effected in a great degree, were some such mode of proceeding as the following to be adopted. Desire the leaders of each party to give you, *in writing*, an *accurate* history or description of Yellow Fever, mentioning particularly the *peculiar* symptoms attending its commencement, progress and termination, which distinguish Yellow Fever from any other fever. These descriptions of Yellow Fever will be a kind of standard for you and other gentlemen to judge by, of all doubtful cases that may subsequently occur. When you have obtained such a history from each party, whenever a suspicious case appears, let a physician of each party visit the patient, and if they disagree as to the disorder, let them give you an account of the symptoms attending the case; from whence, by comparing it with the standard, you may be able to judge whether it is Yellow Fever or not; and whether the sick person should be removed or not, to the Marine Hospital.

In the execution of this plan, it is probable that a good deal of reasoning may be offered by the parties, in support of their respective opinions; but as all reasoning on the subject, that is not founded on clear, indisputable facts, tends rather to confound and obscure, than to elucidate the subject, it will deserve no further attention than politeness dictates. Hippocrates, who wrote above two thousand years ago, was so sensible of the insufficiency of speculative opinions, that he declared, 'no benefit is to be derived in medicine, from mere reasoning, but from such as is demonstrated by experience to be true; for unfounded assertions, however strongly urged, with a profusion of words, are fallacious, and lead to error.'

"Lest these reflections should appear illiberal, it becomes necessary to unfold, in some measure, the weakness of the profession. It is to be regretted, but it is nevertheless true, that an unhappy fatality has generally attended the science of medicine, which incited its professors, even the most learned of them, to dispute warmly about matters, which an unlettered man, of common sense, would think could be determined by plain experiments. For instance, it is reasonable to think, that were the same medicine to be given in similar cases, it would uniformly produce similar effects, and impress every person with the same idea of its good or bad qualities; and that to ascertain its merits or demerits, nothing need be done but to give it a fair and accurate trial. Yet the utility of the bark, mercury and antimony, all excellent medicines, was contested many years, in the most enlightened parts of Europe. So true is the observation of Galen, 'that erroneous opinions, when they prepossess the minds of men, not only render them deaf but blind, so that they cannot see what appears plain to other people.' And a little further he adds, 'physicians seldom agree on medical subjects; they not only differ, but maintain the most

contradictory opinions.' The late learned and celebrated Doctor Huxham observes, 'that from the days of Galen, and indeed long before, vain hypothesis, the love of novelty, the fashion and faction of physic, too often led its professors devious, and attached them to error; and it is too well known, the same misfortunes still attend us.' It may with truth be added, that while physicians pursued a vain, delusive theory in treating the Small-pox, they rendered that destructive disease still more fatal. When they condescended to observe and follow nature, they *then*, and not till *then*, began to be of service to mankind in that distemper.

"This little sketch of medical history, by shewing what lengths physicians have gone in support of a favorite theory, and the ill consequences resulting from such a procedure, will render men of sense cautious of adopting the opinion of any physician on a controverted point. It likewise strengthens what has been said above, that the only sure way to arrive at truth in the present case, is by adhering closely to an *accurate* enquiry into facts, till a sufficient collection of them shall be obtained, to enable a man of common education and understanding, to form a just opinion on the subject.

"To shew how cautious we ought to be in sending sick persons to the Marine Hospital, I shall make a few observations, which evince that the utmost circumspection should be used on those occasions. The many instances of the amazing influence of the mind on the body, which are recorded by historians as well as physicians, prove that the passions and affections of the mind, are among the most powerful and active instruments that can be employed for the destruction or preservation of the body. Sudden joy, grief and fright, have occasioned immediate death. The fire of ambition, confidence, faith and hope have

raised many persons from dangerous diseases to health and strength. On the other hand, anxiety, despair, and fear, not only make men more susceptible of contagion, but have brought on infirmities of the worst kind; and have even rendered diseases mortal; where no danger was otherwise to be apprehended. Thus, many people, who were long impressed with a belief that they would die with the small-pox, have sunk under the disorder before any symptom of its virulence appeared.

“The consideration of the very pernicious influence of the mind, on people in general, in a place where contagion really does or is supposed to exist, and the frequent unfounded reports of yellow fever that are spread in this city, excite a wish that some steps were taken to prevent our citizens from crediting any account of cases of yellow fever, except such as may be published by the Board of Health.

“Let me now ask, whether it is not reasonable to think, if a person should be attacked with a common fever, and should apprehend it to be yellow fever, that such an idea would endanger his recovery, and much more so, if his physician should adopt the same injurious opinion? Still more dangerous would such an idea be likely to prove, were persons in a common fever, but in that unhappy state of mind, to be sent from their friends and family to the marine hospital, under a positive declaration that they had yellow fever. The safety of the city is certainly not to be risked for the sake of any individual: but perhaps it would not be improper, nor paying too great a tribute to humanity, if a suspicious case should not be precipitately sent to the hospital, nor until a physician of each party had examined the patient, and *accurately* reported his case to the Board of Health. This city and the neighbouring country, have for a long period of time, been annually visited, at this

season, with bilious fever, a disease which is neither dangerous, nor difficult of cure; unless the case has been neglected or injudiciously treated. Yet this fever, though distinct from yellow fever, sometimes assumes appearances which might induce an incautious observer to pronounce it yellow fever. And that such mistakes have been committed, I conclude, not only from the cases which I have seen, but from this remarkable circumstance, that in the reports of deaths and new cases, published by authority during the yellow fever of 1803, there is not a single instance of a person's being taken ill or having died of bilious fever. This omission is very extraordinary, and can only be accounted for on the principle that bilious fever, in all cases of it, at the time, was mistaken for yellow fever.

“Notwithstanding the partiality of medical men to their own opinions and theories, it is to be hoped that the gentlemen of the profession in this city, will become impressed with the importance of rescuing our country from the dread and ravages of Yellow Fever. On this consideration, they will undoubtedly lay aside all prejudices, and cordially unite in investigating the nature of the disease, and in endeavouring to discover a method of rendering it less dangerous and destructive. Nor should they despair of effecting those desirable ends. The Small-pox, for a great length of time, was as fatal to mankind, as Yellow Fever is at present. Science at length found out a way to overcome its virulence, and it is no longer the dread and scourge of nations. And why may we not indulge the pleasing thought, that science may be equally successful in subduing the Yellow Fever; and that our American physicians may have the honour of accomplishing the great work? Their liberal and spirited exertions in so laudable an attempt, would, in any event, insure them the gratitude of their fellow citizens: and should they succeed,

they will do honour to their profession and themselves, enjoy the satisfaction of imparting health and happiness to their country, and be ever ranked among the benefactors of mankind."

In order, that I might exhibit, at one view, the opinions of different physicians respecting the origin and existence of malignant fever in the city, I have deviated considerably from chronological order. I now return to the proceedings of the board, towards the end of July.

On the 29th of that month, the following report was published :—

TO THE PUBLIC.

In consequence of alarming reports of malignant cases of fever having occurred in this city, the Board of Health think it proper to state, that an unusual degree of health at present prevails, and that no case of malignant fever, so far as they know, now exists in New-York. A few cases of unfavorable appearance were observed a few days ago; but the sick were removed to the marine hospital, and every precaution was taken to guard against any farther evil. The constant vigilance exercised at the quarantine establishment, the incessant attention to the removal of nuisances in the city and the present favorable state of the weather, all encourage a reasonable hope, that the season will pass away, without any malignant epidemic. *The Board pledge themselves to their fellow-citizens to give early and unreserved notice of danger, if any should occur.* By the unanimous order of the board of health.

DE WITT CLINTON, President.

JAMES HARDIE, Sec'y.

Office of the Board of Health,
New-York, July 27th, 1805."

On the 29th of July, in consequence, not only of private letters, but of the affidavits of different masters of vessels, that a pestilential disease prevailed at Providence, in Rhode-Island, his Honour the Mayor, in pursuance of the advice of the Board of Health, issued a proclamation, directing "that all vessels which might arrive at this port from Providence, should be subject to quarantine of course, and that no person should be permitted to enter the city and county of New-York, who had been within the said town of Providence, within fourteen days, next preceding his or her arrival, in the said city and county of New-York."

On the same day (29th July) the following proclamation was, likewise, published.

PROCLAMATION

BY THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF THE CITY OF NEW-YORK.

"Whereas, from a proclamation of the Board of Health of the city of Philadelphia, dated the 25th of this month, it appears, that Ludowick Brode, mate, and William Cross, seaman, of the brig Ann-Jane, had made their escape from the Lazaretto of the said city, and that it was supposed, that one of them intended to proceed to the city of New-York. In order, therefore, to enforce as far as practicable, on the part of this board, the health laws of Pennsylvania, *as well as to deter infected persons from coming into this place*, an additional reward of fifty dollars is hereby offered, for the apprehension of either of the said persons, within the bounds of the city and county of New-York.

In behalf and by order of the Board of Health,
DE WITT CLINTON, President.

JAMES HARDIE, Sec'ry."

On the 5th of August, the following report was published.

" Since the last address of this board, a case of Malignant Fever has occurred at No. 127 Water-street, and a Mr. James Dougherty, who was the subject, was removed to the Marine Hospital, on the 30th ult. and died on the evening of that day.

" It is scarcely necessary to mention, that all proper precautionary measures were immediately adopted by the Board of Health, who can confidently assure their fellow citizens, that no case of Malignant Fever exists in the city, and that there is nothing, in the state of the public health, that ought to create apprehension or alarm.

By order of the Board of Health,
DE WITT CLINTON, President.

JAMES HARDIE, Sec'y.
Office of the Board of Health, }
5th August, 1805." }

On the 18th of August, the Mayor of this city having received information from the Mayor and Board of Health of New-Haven, that that city was restored to its usual health, issued a proclamation revoking the one of the 26th of July, and authorizing the renewal of the customary intercourse between that city and ours.

On the 29th of August, the following report was published by the board.

" The Board of Health are happy to congratulate their fellow citizens on the present favourable state of the health of the city.

" The drought, which has hitherto been so long and severe is, at length, mitigated by temperate

showers. A succession of rainy weather may reasonably be expected. The consequent change from an extreme dry, to a humid atmosphere, may prove very unfavourable, unless every mean be used to ventilate and purify cellars in the lower parts of the city. The board, therefore, recommend the utmost attention to this important subject, and confidently hope, that a vigorous perseverance, for a few weeks longer, in the precautionary measures hitherto pursued, will, under the smiles of Providence, avert every cause of danger.

By order of the Board,

DE WITT CLINTON, President.

JAMES HARDIE, Sec'ry."

The following is a copy of the next report which was issued by the board, viz. on the 6th of September, by which it will appear, that the pleasing prospect which had been entertained on the 30th of August, were far from being realized.

" Office of the Board of Health,

September 5, 1805.

" Since the last report of the board, nothing has occurred with respect to the health of the city, to justify alarm, until within three days; during which period, the board have been assiduously employed, not only in executing the precautionary powers deposited in their hands, but in obtaining as accurate an account as possible, of the true state of the general health.

" In the conflict of opinion, it is extremely difficult to arrive at the truth, but the board submit the following as the result of their enquiries. Ten cases of Malignant Fever have occurred since Monday last; five cases of a doubtful nature, some of which have been removed into the country or Marine Hospital, and four deaths.

“ Popular rumour has vastly exaggerated the number of cases, whereby undue alarm has been excited. The board are extremely anxious to impress on their fellow-citizens, the impropriety of giving credit to unauthenticated reports, as they may rest assured, that as long as the present unfavourable state of the public health continues, a candid, undisguised account of the real situation of the city shall be regularly published.

“ Considerable anxiety has prevailed respecting the power of the board, to remove persons sick of Malignant Fever. This power, which has been legally invested in the board, and which has, for a long time, been exercised by the Commissioners of the Health-Office has, in every instance, been used with the utmost delicacy and discretion. Of those patients who were citizens, it has been left entirely at their option, to provide retreats. Others, who have been removed to the Marine Hospital, were mostly strangers, friendless and without families, and have been provided with every comfort and convenience. Should the fever continue to prevail, Bellevue Hospital will be opened. The buildings belonging to this establishment have been recently repaired, with considerable improvements, and every accommodation has been liberally provided for the sick.

“ The part of the city which, at present, appears to be the principal seat of the disease, is Water and Front-streets, between the Fly-Market and Old-slip.

By order of the Board of Health,
DE WITT CLINTON, President.

JAMES HARDIE, Sec'ry.”

On the same day, the City-Inspector's Office was moved from the Federal-Hall to the Office of the Board of Health, corner of Chamber-street and Broadway, where that gentleman, except between nine

and eleven o'clock in the morning, when he went daily to visit the Hospital at Bellevue, constantly attended, during the whole time of the sickness, from six o'clock in the morning, until nine at night. About this time also, the Banks, the Custom-House, the Post-Office, and the printers of the Daily News-papers in general, moved their respective offices to the village of Greenwich, to which place also, a number of our most respectable merchants and others resorted.

On the 8th of September, the Board of Health resolved, that for the accommodation of poor patients, Bellevue Hospital should be opened. At the same time, Doctor Richard L. Walker was appointed as visiting physician, at the aforesaid hospital, Dr. Elias Winfield as the resident physician, and Drs. M'Lean, Buchannan, Huyler and Kunzie, as physicians to attend the sick poor in the city. It was also resolved, that from henceforth, during the prevalence of the sickness, the board should meet daily.

On the 10th day of September, the board reported twenty-nine cases of Malignant Fever and three deaths. They, at the same time, published the following address.

" Office of the Board of Health,

September 10th, 1805.

" The Board of Health being extremely anxious to be informed of the precise state of the prevalent disease, they therefore request physicians to be prompt and accurate in making the returns required by law. The power of removal, which has been vested in them, will only be exercised in cases of transient persons, abandoned and without the means of support. The disease being unquestionably prevalent, those measures which the public safety might have imperiously commanded, at its commencement,

are now in some measure unnecessary, from the conviction, that the exercise of them in the unhealthy parts of the city, will be of little or no use.

“ The Common Council have, at their last meeting, entrusted, during the recess, the superintendence of the Fire and Watch Departments to this board. It is scarcely necessary to mention, that the city is, at this period, greatly exposed to danger, which might be prevented or obviated by a faithful and vigilant performance of the duties of the firemen and watchmen. The board have no reason to doubt the zeal and fidelity of their fellow-citizens attached to these departments. On the contrary they are persuaded, that their attention to their duties will be proportioned to the emergencies, which demand a faithful execution of them. The citizens, who remove, are requested to send their fire-buckets to the City-Hall or Bridewell, for which the corporation will be responsible. The captains of the watch will make immediate reports of all delinquents, and the board will not forget, at a suitable time, those men, who distinguish themselves, by their meritorious exertions. The Board call upon all the officers of the city to exert themselves upon this occasion*, and they earnestly recommend to their fellow-citizens, in general, to lay aside any differences or animosities, at this season of common calamity, and to unite with them in endeavouring to alleviate the evils, with which we are visited.

By order of the Board of Health,

DE WITT CLINTON, President,

JOHN PINTARD, City-Inspector.”

* It is a circumstance, which certainly reflects the highest honour, not only upon the Board of Health, the Police Justices, and the officers employed in different departments under the Corporation, but also upon the citizens at large, that, although the lower part of the city was, in a great measure, evacuated, no robbery, burglary, or fire, worthy of notice, occurred during this season of calamity.

On the 12th September the Board published the following address :

“ The Board of Health have made a considerable augmentation of the watch in the exposed parts of the city, and will not fail to make further arrangements from time to time as the public exigencies may require.

“ They have also given special directions for the preservation of the city against fire. They, therefore, trust, that their fellow-citizens will feel perfectly satisfied, that every possible precaution has been adopted for the public security. The great amount of property, at present in the village of Greenwich stored in wooden buildings is exposed to considerable hazard from fire.

“ The fire wardens of the eighth ward are especially enjoined to use every precautionary measure, with the utmost promptitude and vigilance and report to this board.

“ Physicians have been engaged to attend the indigent sick.

DE WITT CLINTON, President.

JAMES HARDIE, Secretary.”

On the same day directions were given to Mr. Brown, chief engineer of the fire department to provide an extra fire engine for the security of persons and property in the village of Greenwich, and the order was executed with a promptitude highly creditable to that gentleman. A fire company was also immediately organized to take charge of it.

On the 13th of September, directions were given to the Secretary to endeavour to persuade as many persons as possible, who lived in the infected part of

the city to move to the country ; and on the 14th the following address was published by the Board :

“ The Board have formed a decided opinion, that the principal seat of the prevailing disease is that part of the city included between Burling-slip and Old-slip as far west as Pearl-street. Almost all the cases of disease, which have occurred, can be distinctly traced to a communication with that part of the city. It is matter of extreme regret, that the repeated admonitions of the board, to remove from this quarter have been disregarded by a number of individuals, who have remained the self-devoted victims of disease and death. They conceive it their duty again to enjoin it upon their fellow-citizens, who have continued there, to remove immediately. To obviate every plea of necessity, and to discharge the duties they owe to humanity, the board have erected buildings for the reception and accommodation of the indigent, at Bellevue gate, where they will be supplied with provisions by the Commissioners of the Alms-House. Such as are able to remove without assistance, are enjoined to go into the country, and not into the healthy parts of the city. The board will consider it their duty to interpose and prevent such removals, which have excited the apprehension of a number of worthy citizens, who regard their health, as thereby exposed to imminent danger.* Persons have been engaged in these practices, who ought to know better, and who, unless their conduct be changed, will become the objects of severe reprobation and public indignation. All persons who do not comply forthwith, with this advice of the board, to remove from the above described part of the city, which is

* This alludes to two gentlemen who reside in healthy parts of the city, each of whom had taken a sick person into his house, from places deemed infected. One of these died ; but it is a fact, that no individual in either family sickened in consequence thereof. All the neighbours, likewise, continued to enjoy good health.

deemed the principal seat of the disease, and which does not contain more than 33 acres, will be considered guilty of a wanton exposure of their lives, and will justify the board in resorting to compulsory measures.

By order of the Board of Health,
DE WITT CLINTON, President.

JAMES HARDIE, Sec'ry."

At the same time directions were again given to the Secretary, to attempt to persuade as many people as he possibly could, to remove from the infected part of the city to retreats of their own choice, if they were in sufficient circumstances to maintain themselves; if not, to advise them to remove to the new buildings at Bellevue gate. In consequence of which, the householders residing in the parts alluded to, were generally waited upon, and by far the greater number left the city. About this time, likewise, several cases of the disease made their appearance in Rider-street and Eden's-alley. The buildings there are small, and much crowded; the street narrow and confined; and the greater part of the people poor, and far from being cleanly in their mode of living; besides, it was recollected, that in the year 1798, out of upwards of thirty families, who then dwelt there, no one escaped sickness, and that only two families were exempt from death. It therefore became peculiarly desirable, that as many of them as possible should be induced to move; and in the space of a day or two, almost the whole of the inhabitants were lodged at Bellevue gate, and such were the accommodations and treatment which they received, that many of those, who were with difficulty persuaded to go thither, have afterwards returned their most grateful acknowledgments. The number provided for at this asylum, amounted to one hundred and fifty men, women and children; of whom, about thirty men were employed in working on the middle road lead-

ing through the property belonging to the corporation, whose wages tended to lessen the expence incurred for the maintenance of their families. The good order and regularity observed amongst these people, was extremely gratifying to all who visited them. None seemed discontented, but, on the other hand, they were friendly to each other, and seemed perfectly happy. This was, no doubt, in a great measure, owing to the superintendant, Mr. Richard Nixon, whose prudent and conciliatory manners, had the most happy effect in keeping up that harmony, which was so eminently conspicuous.

But whilst I record with pleasure the utility of the establishment at Bellevue gate, it would be highly improper to omit to mention the philanthropy of a private individual, whose example, it is devoutly to be wished, may, at future periods of pestilential disease, if such should unfortunately happen, be followed by other wealthy landlords of this city. The gentleman to whom I allude, is Mr. Patrick M'Koy, a native of Ireland, who resides in Augustus-street, in which he has a number of houses. Several cases of the disease had occurred in that street, and some deaths. Mr. M'Koy deemed it advisable to move with his family to a house, which he had lately built, at the intersection of the Bowery and Bellevue roads; but his humanity would not permit him to overlook the perilous situation of his poor tenants. He, with the greatest possible dispatch, had buildings erected for their accommodation near to his own house, to which there removed upwards of one hundred persons, men, women and children. I have, with the most heart felt satisfaction, visited these people, amongst whom was observed the same good order and decorum to exist, as amongst those at the Bellevue-gate. By the humanity of the Corporation in the first of these instances, and of Mr. M'Koy in the second, there can be no doubt, that many of those

people are now in good health, who would otherwise have been numbered amongst the dead.

I now proceed to the further transactions of the Board of Health. From the middle of September till the 1st of October, nothing very remarkable occurred before that body, except their unremitting care to relieve the exigencies of the poor, to mitigate the sorrows of the sick and afflicted, and to provide for the general safety of the public. It, likewise, required much attention and was fraught with considerable expences to supply suitable nurses for the sick poor. The care of this department was, in a great measure, invested in an officer of the Board, whose duty it was, not only to procure nurses, but, from day to day, to visit the families in which they were, to examine into their conduct, and in case of improper behaviour on their part, to remove them and substitute others. He was, likewise, from time to time, furnished with small sums of money for the occasional relief of such families.

About this time, false reports had been spread abroad in the country, announcing the breaking up of several warehouses, &c. in the city. To obviate unnecessary alarm on this subject, the following address was published, on the 1st of Oct. "Unfounded reports having been propagated tending to alarm the apprehensions of our absent fellow-citizens, that several ware-houses and dwelling-houses have been broken open, the Board consider it proper to declare, that no such occurrence, to their knowledge, has happened. On the contrary, the vigilance of the watchmen, through every part of the city, especially in the lower parts is such that no attempt of the kind can be made without immediate detection. Our fellow-citizens may, therefore, rest perfectly satisfied, that as far as depends on this board and the departments under them, the safety and the tranquillity of the city will be secure."

On the 11th of October, although the number of deaths had considerably diminished, yet the board thought it proper "to advise those of their fellow-citizens, who had removed into the country against returning, especially to the lower part of the city, until notice be given that they may do the same with safety." It was also recommended to cause all houses and apartments that have been shut up for some time past to be well aired before they are re-inhabited.

On Friday 25th of October, 12 o'clock, the following address was agreed to. "The Board of Health have the satisfaction to announce to their fellow-citizens, that, in their opinion, every reasonable cause of danger from malignant fever has ceased, and that they may return to their respective homes with every probability of perfect safety. The Board recommend, however, that precautionary measures be taken to ventilate their dwellings.

DE WITT CLINTON, President.

JAMES HARDIE, Sec'y."

Upon the publication of the above address, those of our fellow-citizens, who had upon the approach of the disease, fled with precipitation, were no less precipitate in their return to their respective habitations, so that, in those parts of the city, where even at the middle of the day, there was scarcely any thing to be observed but a dead silence, within a few days thereafter, the hammer of the mechanic was again heard, and all that life, activity and bustle, which is common in large and commercial cities was again renewed.

CHAPTER II.

OF THE RISE, PROGRESS, AND DECLINE OF THE LATE EPIDEMIC.

THE origin, rise, progress and decline of the disease has, already been pretty fully recited in the preceding chapter, it being deemed more agreeably to order, that the narrative of the steps taken by the board of Health to prevent the introduction of malignant fever should be continued, so as to include the measures, which they adopted to mitigate its fury. Upon mentioning the first cases, which occurred, it, likewise, became necessary to communicate the opinions of various respectable physicians, concerning the origin and nature of the disease. Any thing further necessary to be said upon that subject may be found in the following farewell address of the Board :

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH.

NOVEMBER 13, 1805.

TO THE PUBLIC.

ON the termination of their duties of the late calamitous season, the Board of Health consider it no more than a becoming mark of respect to their fellow-citizens, to lay before them such facts as may illustrate the extent of the distress that has so recently interested the sensibility, and affected, in a greater or less degree, the interests of all descriptions of the community.

It is a subject of deep regret, that a collision of opinion exists, not only with respect to the origin, but also in relation to the nature of the malignant disease commonly denominated the yellow fever....

While, on the one hand, it is contended that it is imported from abroad, and that it is propagated by contagion, it is on the other hand asserted with equal earnestness, that it originates at home, or is generated on board of vessels, which arrive amongst us, and that it is entirely non-contagious. These discordant opinions, maintained by medical gentlemen of the first respectability and eminence, and which enter deeply into the passions as well as the interests of the community, must necessarily have an inauspicious influence upon most of the leading measures, either of the prevention or remedy, adopted by the guardians of the public health.

The partizans of the opposite theories, animated by the heat of debate, and impelled by their different views of the public good, will naturally approve or censure the measures proposed to avert or alleviate this overwhelming calamity, in proportion as they corroborate or militate against their favourite opinions. Although a man possessed of correct views, will proceed in the direct path of duty without being deterred by censure; still it cannot be controverted, that the support and approbation of an intelligent public must animate and encourage his exertions. It is not to be denied, that with the most upright intentions, and with the most firm determination, to maintain an impartial official position in the conflict arising from these theories, yet that our conduct may sometimes, insensibly and unintentionally, notwithstanding our utmost circumspection, deviate from the strict line of impartiality. That the inconveniences here stated have in some measure been felt and observed, is highly probable. But we are happy to note that we have received a candid and honourable support from our fellow citizens in general, and composed as the Board is of persons holding different tenets, yet that our proceedings have been governed by a spirit of harmony rarely manifested in public bodies.

The importance of exploring every source of correct information, and the expediency of dispassionate and ample deliberation, before an official declaration of the prevalence of malignant fever, must be obvious to all. The universal alarm excited by the existence of this disease, the serious injury to the commercial and agricultural interests of the community, and the extreme inconvenience to our fellow citizens in particular, render it necessary that the evil should absolutely prevail before it is acknowledged. On the other hand, it is due to the health as well as the security of the lives of our citizens, to apprise them seasonably of the calamity, which menaces them. Circumstanced as the Board were at the commencement of the late malignant disease, well aware that many of their fellow citizens regarded the few cases, which, at that period, had occurred, merely as the common bilious fever of the country; sensible of the calamitous consequences, which in either case, would result, of announcing the prevalence of the fever, if it really did not exist; or of not avowing it, if it did; anxious to unite public opinion on a question so deeply interesting, and with the greatest deference and respect to the opinion of the medical gentlemen their associates, who early, uniformly and decidedly declared the evidence of malignant fever and the probability and danger of an impending pestilential epidemic, the Board considered it their duty to avail themselves of the observations and intelligence of professional gentlemen of different sentiments. Measures were accordingly adopted to obtain their information and the result was an admission on all sides of the existence of malignant fever.

Although our health laws, in enforcing internal cleanliness, and in subjecting vessels entering our ports to examination, proceed upon the ground that the disease may be either of foreign or domestic origin, yet it is evident they recognize, in common

with the health laws of other countries, the doctrine of contagion. Under this impression the Commissioners of the Health-Office have been authorised, almost since their first establishment, to send all persons and things infected by, or tainted with pestilential matter, to the Marine Hospital at Staten-Island. By an act of last session, this Board was created, and the Legislature, sensible that the exercise of the power of removal, in this restricted form would be in some cases, extremely inconvenient, and in others highly pernicious, invested the Board with authority to remove either to the Marine Hospital or elsewhere. The Board and the Commissioners of the Health-Office have, consequently, a concurrent right to send infected persons and things to the Marine Hospital, and the Board, moreover, have an exclusive authority to remove them to other places. When some solitary cases occurred, the Board, with a view to arrest the progress of the disease, exercised this discretionary power, but only with the consent of the parties concerned. Afterwards, however, when it was ascertained that the disease was too firmly rooted, to be eradicated by the removal of the sick, the Board considered it to be their duty to discontinue the application of a remedy, at all times extremely irksome and afflicting, and which perhaps ought only to be resorted to in extreme cases. To the voluntary removal of the healthy from the infected parts of the city, the Board in a great degree, ascribed the comparative fewness of deaths, which have occurred. In the expediency of this step all parties concurred. Whether the disease was communicated by the principle of contagion, or by the influence of an impure atmosphere, the danger was equally alarming, and it was equally expedient to withdraw from it.

From the commencement to the final extinction of the late prevailing disease, *six hundred* Cases of

Malignant Fever have been reported to the Board. *Two hundred and sixty two* Deaths, as published in the daily Bulletins, including those that happened since their discontinuance have occurred. *Sixty four* patients, moreover, were sent to the Marine Hospital, *twenty eight* of whom died of malignant fever. The total number of patients admitted into Bellevue Hospital was *one hundred and seventy-five*, *one hundred and forty-nine* of which were cases of malignant fever, and *twenty-six* of other diseases. The total number of deaths at the Hospital which were included in the bulletins, was *sixty-nine*, *fifty-two* of which were by malignant fever, and the remaining *seventeen* by other maladies. The ratio of recoveries from malignant fever is very nearly *two thirds*, which considering that a very large proportion of the patients were received in the last stages of disease, and many of them in the very article of death, reflects the highest credit on the practice of the visiting and resident physicians of that establishment.

To alleviate as far as possible the miseries of the indigent, deprived of all resource for their daily support by the general abandonment of the city, the doors of the alms house were opened and rations issued to *sixteen hundred and forty* families. An asylum was erected on the public grounds adjoining Bellevue gate, for the reception of such poor families as the Board judged it expedient to remove from the seat of disease. Every accommodation was afforded to *one hundred and fifty* persons, men, women and children, who were maintained by the public bounty. Of this number *thirty* men were daily employed in improving the middle road, leading through the property belonging to the corporation, whose wages tended to lessen the expence incurred by the support of their families. To improve the minds of the children in the asylum, as well as to

preserve order and prevent them from becoming obnoxious to the neighbourhood, a school was opened, which afforded instruction, for the space of six weeks, to *forty*. On the propriety and good conduct of this part of the establishment, the Board will long reflect with grateful complacency.

These various objects, combined with the augmentation of the city watch, necessarily involved the Board in an expenditure of *nearly twenty five thousand dollars*, to which it is confidently trusted their fellow citizens will submit with that magnanimity, which has so peculiarly characterized them, on all similar occasions. Excepting the solitary contributions from Boston, and Richmond, in Virginia, already acknowledged, amounting to *two hundred and fifty dollars*,* the Board have received no eleemosynary aid towards the public exigences. Voluntary assistance not being proffered, they did not conceive it just to call on their fellow citizens individually—most of whom had to struggle with all the inconveniences and losses attending removal and the consequent derangement of the regular course of business.

The meetings of the common council being only weekly, the peculiar situation of the city, from its exposure to fire and robbery, in consequence of the evacuation by its inhabitants, rendered it expedient to invest the Board of Health, whose meetings were daily with a superintending and controuling power over the watchmen and firemen. The board of course paid the utmost attention to these departments, and it is a circumstance of peculiar felicitation, a fact highly honourable to the character of our city, that not a

* Of the sum here alluded to, two hundred dollars were transmitted from Messieurs James and J. H. Perkins, of Boston, by the hands of Messieurs Grant Forbes and Co. of this city; the other fifty dollars were received from a gentleman in Richmond, Virginia, by the hands of Messieurs Bailey and Bogert.

single fire, burglary or robbery of any consequence has happened.

To the fidelity and good conduct of the officers of the watch and watchmen ; to the care and precaution of the chief engineer, and the indefatigable vigilance and attention of the special justices of Police, the Board deem it their duty to make the most ample acknowledgments. Nor can they omit to mention, in terms of the highest approbation, the unremitting attention of the City inspector in arranging the business and executing the orders of the Board, in all its multifarious details—of the superintendant and commissioners of the Alms-House, in alleviating the distress, and administering to the wants of the poor and afflicted—of the medical gentlemen attached to and employed by the Board, who spared no exertions, and who shrunk from no danger in the discharge of their hazardous duties—and generally of the officers of the city and persons in public employment, with whom the Board had official connection, with scarcely a single exception.

The Board will on a future occasion, submit to the proper authority, such measures, as, in their opinion, may appear necessary to be adopted, in order to prevent as far as human means extend, a recurrence of the calamity recently experienced. In the mean time they earnestly solicit a free communication of the sentiments of their fellow citizens on this interesting subject.

The Board would do injustice to their feelings, did they not, on this occasion, recommend in the most earnest manner, the destitute widows and orphans of the deceased, to the special benevolence and protection of their fellow citizens. Nor can they omit, in this public manner, to offer up the incense of grateful hearts to the Sovereign Ruler of the Universe, in

whose hands are the issues of life and death, for the manifestation of his divine mercy and goodness, in preserving their health and lives amidst surrounding scenes of disease and mortality.

By order, and in behalf of the Board.

DE WITT CLINTON, Pres.

JAMES HARDIE, Sec'ry.

CHAPTER III.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE MARINE AND BELLEVUE HOSPITALS,
WITH THE NUMBER OF PATIENTS RECEIVED, AND DEATHS
WHICH HAVE OCCURRED, AT EACH OF THESE ESTABLISH-
MENTS, DURING THE SICKLY SEASON.

THE first of these establishments, the Marine Hospital, is founded on the eastern part of Staten-Island, on the banks of the river Hudson, in a situation as airy and salubrious as any that can well be conceived, and having a charming view, not only of the city of New-York and the Narrows, but also of a large extent of the Long-Island shore. Upon the Hospital being opened here in the year 1799, as might reasonably be expected, at the commencement of so important an institution, much remained to be done for the comfort and convenience of those for whose benefit it was intended. Since that year, however, the Commissioners of the Health-Office have been annually adding greatly to its improvements, though more has been done, in this respect, during the last two years, than in any former period of the same length. The number of apartments, which were at first, very limited, is now such, as to render it almost certain, that they will be found amply sufficient for the accommodation of any number of patients which may offer, even in the worst of seasons; and these are so arranged, as not only to keep the different sexes separate, but also persons of different colour and stations of life; to which, it may be added, that a particular building is appropriated for the convalescents, and there is also a separate room, to which the dying are removed, so that those who are sick, may not be alarmed by their groans and shrieks. The neatness and cleanliness observed in this establishment, is so well known, as to require no eulogium.

"On the 17th of June, the Marine Hospital was visited by the Board of Health, at the request of the Health-Officer, when the following testimony of approbation was, by that body, entered upon their minutes. "Upon examining the Hospital very particularly, the board are unanimously of opinion, that the Health-Officer is entitled to the highest degree of credit, for the humane and truly excellent arrangement which he has made, with respect to that institution."

The following extract of a letter from Mrs. Stayley, the widow, and Mr. Herbert, the father-in-law, of the deceased Andrew Stayley, which was published in several of our daily papers, will shew the opinion which they entertained of the treatment of the patients at this Hospital.

TO DR. JOHN R. B. RODGERS, AND DR. JOSEPH BAYLEY,
AT THE MARINE HOSPITAL, STATEN-ISLAND.

"GENTLEMEN,

"In the case of Mr. Andrew Stayley, who was sent down from No. 92 Maiden-lane, to the Marine Hospital, on the 23d ult. we, the widow and father-in-law of the said Mr. Stayley, have every reason, not only to be satisfied with your conduct, but think it our duty, in this public manner, to return you our most sincere acknowledgments.

"Upon the arrival of the deceased at the hospital, you sent him to a large, airy, and commodious apartment, as well calculated as any that could have been devised, for the accommodation of himself and family, and you, in every instance, even anticipated his wants. Your study was to make him and those connected with him, comfortable and happy; and such, in our opinion, was your skill and unceasing exertions as medical gentlemen, that if a cure had been

practicable, we are persuaded it would have been effected.

“ Gentlemen, your politeness, your humanity and attention, not only to us, but to every sick person committed to your care, demands, and will always receive the thanks of those concerned. For our parts, words are wanting to express our gratitude, but you shall always have our prayers and good wishes, &c.&c.

We are, &c.

CATHARINE STAYLEY.

FELIX HERBERT.

New-York, September 4, 1805.”

The widow of the late Mr. William Fraser, likewise speaks in terms of the highest respect, of the treatment received at this Hospital; and Mr. Eustace Long and wife, in Rider-street, Wm. Bower and wife, 245 Greenwich-street, together with several others, who were sent down there sick and recovered, have repeatedly mentioned to me, that if they should again be in similar circumstances, instead of requiring persuasion to be sent to the Hospital, they would request it as one of the greatest favours.

That this Hospital is chiefly designed for sea-faring people, is obvious, from its name; but the Commissioners of the Health-Office and the Board of Health, have a concurrent jurisdiction to send thither, all persons and things within the city of New-York, infected by or tainted with pestilential matter, which they may consider as dangerous to the public health; and the Board of Health have also the further power to send persons and things of the above description, to such place of safety as they may think proper. Being thus vested with this authority, it has heretofore been usual, upon the first appearance of Malignant Fever, to cause the removal of the infected to the Marine Hospital; but as soon as the disease becomes

prevalent, the Hospital at Bellevue is opened, and such citizens infected with pestilence, as cannot otherwise be provided for, are sent to the latter of these establishments, whilst sick seamen of every description are sent down to the former.

During the present season, viz. between the 18th of July and 28th of October, sixty-four patients were sent from the city to the Marine Hospital, of whom the following died of Malignant Fever, viz.

July 18. Christopher Hibbron, 92 Maiden-lane, died July 22.

30. James Dougherty, Water-street, July 30.

Aug. 7. Isabella Adams, corner Chamber and Greenwich-streets, August 7.

17. Mrs. Pfifer, 102 Water-street, Aug. 17.

23. Mr. Andrew Stayley, 92 Maiden-lane, August 31.

26. Daniel Young, Washington and Duane-streets, August 27.

30. Joshua Haines, snow Mehitable, Aug. 31.

Sept. 1. Alfred Preston, Division-street, Sept. 1.

2. William Fraser, L. Chapel-street, Sept. 2.

3. Samuel Woodruff, Moore-street, Sept. 5.

George Pymer, child, Pine-street, Sept. 7.

5. Jacob Christopher, brig Columbia, Sept. 11.

6. Charles Everte, Bear-market, Sept. 11.

John Crowser, from the Alms-House gate, Sept. 10.

Mathew Burk, Fly-market, Sept. 12.

7. Richard Thompson, Front-street, Sept. 8.

8. Charles Diven, Elm-street, Sept. 8.

Henry Blackham, Pearl-street, Sept. 8.

Mrs. Beaman, Wall-street, Sept. 9.

Richard Hollidge, sch. Weymouth, Sept. 18.

10. Jonathan Campbell, Pine-street, Sept. 13.

12. John Hardley, ship Flora, Sept. 16.

16. John Marino, ship Delaware, Sept. 19.

20. James Develin, Pine and Front, Sept. 24.

24. Robert Davis, Pine-street, Sept. 25.
 25. Charles Crowel, George-st. wharf, Sept. 26.
 27. William Behaut, St. James-street, Sept. 30.
 Oct. 9. William Logan, Catharine-lane, Oct. 11.

Of these, 8 died on the day of arrival.

7 on the day thereafter.

1 on the 2d day.

2 on the 3d day.

6 on the 4th day.

2 on the 6th day.

1 on the 8th day, and

1 on the 10th day.

Having thus given a short account of the Marine Hospital at Staten-Island, I shall now proceed to give a brief statement of the situation of the Hospital at Bellevue; but as this establishment was daily visited by the City-Inspector, who, at the close of the season, gave in a report of his observations concerning that institution, I am persuaded, it would be impossible for me to present to my readers, any thing which would be equally satisfactory. In this official communication, he not only states the condition of that institution, during the present season, but, likewise, points out a variety of objects, which, if duly attended to, (and the Board of Health will, no doubt, weigh them with that attention which the importance of the subject requires) will render the Hospital, in all probability, still more useful, if it should please Divine Providence, at any future period, to afflict us with Pestilential or Malignant Fever.

The following is the report alluded to :—

The City-Inspector has the honour to report, That in conformity with the wishes of the Board of Health, Bellevue Hospital was finally closed on

Saturday, the 28th of October. From its opening on the 9th of September to that day, the number of patients admitted amounted to 175

Of whom the malignant cases were	149	
Other diseases,	28	
	—	175

The deaths, which occurred, were as follows ;

Of malignant fever,	52
typhus fever,	3
dysentery,	3
diarrhœa,	3
pneumonia,	1
phthisis pulmonalis,	1
epilepsy,	3
cholera infantum,	1
diseases unknown	2
	—
	69
Discharged cured,	106
	—
Total,	175

The Physicians of the Hospital remark, that only ONE person died, who was admitted on the first day of disease. Four of the patients were, on closing the Hospital, sent to the City Hospital, cured of fever, but convalescent from chronic diseases.

Of the extreme cases there died	
within 24 hours after admission,	5
12 hours,	6
6 hours,	3
1 hour,	6
10 minutes,	2
	—
	22

nearly one-third of the total amount of deaths.

The ratio of cures from malignant fever to deaths by the same disorder is very nearly two-thirds.... which, considering that most of the patients were sent there in the last stage of disease and death, reflects the highest credit on the practice of Doctors Walker and Winfield, the visiting and resident Physicians.

Accompanying this Report is the Return of the Physicians, with the list of patients admitted into the Hospital during the present season....likewise a schedule of the state of the Hospital for the year 1803 ; by which it appears, that the Hospital on that occasion was opened on the 12th day of August, and closed on the 7th of November, during which period were admitted

Of malignant fever patients,	170
Of various other diseases,	21
Total,	191

The deaths which occurred were,

Of malignant fever,	100
phthisis pulmonalis,	1
diarrhœa,	2
	103

Discharged cured,	88
	191

Of whom were sent to the City Hospital,	3
to the Alms-house,	10
	13

On the 7th of November, when the Hospital was closed.

A comparative view of these tables, shews that the present season, although nearly one month

shorter, has been proportionably more active, and that the success attending the practice of the Hospital has been greater this season than the former: as the number of deaths in 1803 considerably exceeded one-half of the cases, and, as before remarked, during the current year, amounted only to about one-third.

The City Inspector wishes it to be understood, that the comparison is made from no invidious motive, and without the most remote idea of reflection on the former services at the Hospital, but solely for the satisfaction of the Board, and to furnish data for reflection and calculation, whether the treatment of this awful malady is not better understood, and that a reasonable hope may be entertained, that at no distant day it will be divested of its horrors, and become more controulable and less mortal, by the skill and experience of medical professors.

By the return from the Marine Hospital it appears, that from the 18th day of July to the 28th of October, the number of patients sent from this City, amounted to

Of whom died of malignant fever,	28
Discharged cured,	30
Remained of chronic complaints, .	6

Total, 64

The total number of cases reported at the Office from the 5th of September to the 25th of October inclusive, amounted to

600

The total number of deaths which occurred in this City and at Bellevue Hospital during the same period, as published in the daily bulletins, was 249

To which are to be added the deaths that have happened since the reports were

closed, and which have been announced
 in the bills of mortality amounting to 13
 ——— 262

Making in all, 262 deaths of malignant fever.

The total number of cases reported in 1803 appears to have been 1639.

The deaths by malignant fever, which occurred the same year, amounted to 606.

In closing his official report for the present season, the City Inspector begs leave to submit a few remarks respecting the establishment at Bellevue—the result of his observation and experience.

The Buildings called Hospitals erected at Bellevue appear to have been set up on the spur of the occasion, and on the presumption that the fever would never recur again. Fatal experience has proved otherwise, and points to the conviction, that we may expect repeated attacks from this insidious disease. The wards, the one appropriated for the men especially, are every way inadequate to the wants of the patients or the comfort of the nurses and physicians. The buildings are on too contracted a scale—of materials too slight to repeal the summer heat or autumnal cold. The crowded state of the Hospital, during the last season, must have had an unfavourable influence on the spirits of the patients. Those newly arrived were evidently depressed by the surrounding scenes of malady, and the groans and shrieks of convulsed and dying subjects. The senses were evidently offended, and the atmosphere rendered impure in consequence of the wards being so overcrowded. More extensive accommodation is absolutely necessary against another season; which it is confidently trusted that the Board will, at all events, provide.

To render this establishment more extensively useful, and to relieve such persons as may be in circumstances to pay for comfortable accommodation, a Pay Hospital with suitable distinct apartments might be advantageously erected. The difficulty of providing for strangers and single gentlemen, labouring under malignant fever, in private families, has been sensibly experienced—such persons are competent and willing to pay liberally for genteel accommodations, were such provided, and there is no doubt that such a branch of the establishment, if not productive, would at least not become burthensome, and would be highly creditable to our City.

Perhaps in regarding the proposed improvements at Bellevue Hospital, it might be of moment to consider whether a change of the establishment to some other ground, appertaining to the Corporation, would not be eligible. The scite of Bellevue might in all probability, be sold for a sum adequate to very extensive improvements. The accommodation of poor families in suitable buildings, is a part of the whole establishment, which will also deserve the contemplation of the Board, and it is submitted whether the present assylum ought not to be preserved until more permanent buildings can be provided.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN PINTARD, City-Inspector.

New-York, 12th Nov. 1805.

CHAPTER IV.

RECORD OF DEATHS,

By Malignant Fever, which have occurred in the City of New-York, at the Marine Hospital, or at Bellevue, during the Autumn of 1805; in which is likewise included the names of sundry persons, who, having caught their sickness in the City, afterwards died in the country.

 The words in *Italic*, after the name of any deceased person, denotes the country, of which he or she was respectively a native.

- Oct. 7. Adams, Henry, cartman, 25 Garden, *Ireland*,
 Aug. 17. Adams, Isabella, (a black) corner of Greenwich and Chamber,
 Sept. 29. Allen, Elizabeth, daughter of Mathias, 75 Courtland, aged 26, *New Jersey*,
 ——— Arden, Thomas, S. from 186 Pearl, West-Chester,
 ——— 30. Allen, Mary, 196 Broadway, aged 19, *Ireland*,
 ——— 29. Allen, Mathias, 75 Courtland, *New Jersey*,
 ——— 30. Allen, Samuel, printer, 32 Lumber, *England*,
 Oct. 1. Allen, Stephen, mason, 23 Provoost, aged 38, *New-York*,
 Sep. 27. Amerman, Joseph B. 11 Vandewater,
 Oct. 9. Anderson, Sarah, Cliff,
 Sep. 19. Baehr, Lewis, from 154 Wall, Hammond,
 Oct. 16. Baisely, Margaret, 47 Gold,
 ——— 6. Barr, Hugh, Broadway, near Union Furnace, aged 25, *Ireland*,
 Sep. 15. Barry, Peter, from 26 Augustus, Bellevue, aged 26, *Ireland*,

- Oct. *11. Bates, Sally, from Thomas, Bellevue,
 Sep. 18. Bazen, James, 34 Robinson, aged 53,
France,
 — 28. Bazen, Rachel, from do. at Bellevue,
 Oct. 5. Beatty, Thomas, 186 Cherry, aged 22,
Ireland,
 — 24. Beekman, Wm. son of Dr. John, at the
 Wallabout, aged 11, *New-York*,
 Sep. 9. Mrs. Beaman, from 80 Wall, at Marine
 Hospital,
 — 17. Benjamin, Everard, broker, 78 Broad,
Connecticut,
 Oct. 6. Bennet Jacob, 13 Partition, aged 25.
 — 8. Bernard, Joannes Christian, from 195
 Water, at Bellevue, *Holland*.
 Sept. 3. Behaut, William, from St. James-st. Ma-
 rine Hospital,
 — †27. Bingham, John, cartman, 33 Second.
 — 12. Bininger, Abm. jun. 20 Maiden-Lane,
native.
 — 8. Blackham, Henry, from 136 Pearl, at the
 Marine Hospital.
 Oct. 27. Boerum, Sarah, 130 Fly-Market.
 Sept. 17. Bolen, Ann, 80 Read.
 — 7. Bolen James, 5 Moore, aged 24, *Newark*.
 — 1. Bowie Mrs. Ann, 55 Partition.
 — 10. Bowie, Miss Flora, near State Prison,
Greenwich.
 — 22. Bowers, John, Robinson, corner of
Greenwich, Baltimore.
 — 6. Brannon, John, 15 Augustus, aged 35,
Ireland.
 — 2. Britton, George, 15 Burling-slip, *England*.

* Was employed in nursing a sick person in the lower end of Parti-
 tion-street.

† Attended his stand as a cartman at the Coffee-House, till
 within eight days of his being taken sick.

- Sept. 14. Brown, Mr. corner Depeyster and Front.
 — 13. Brown, Isaac, son of Saml. corner of
 Greenwich and Robinson.
 — Brown, Isaac, 26 Read.
 — †20. Brown, Mrs. Mary, 66 Roosevelt.
 — 12. Brown, Peter, 188 Pearl, aged 28, *Scotland*.
 — 14. Browning, William, white-smith from 90
 Water, Brannon, aged 36, *England*.
 — 11. Browning, Mrs. Nancy, wife of Wm. do.
 do. aged 30.
 — 11. Burk, Mathew, from Fly-Market, at Ma-
 rine Hospital.
 — 10. Barling, Joseph, son of Thomas, of White
 Plains, Vandewater.
 — 25. Byass, Rebecca, 28 John, aged 21, *New-
 Jersey*.
 Oct. †4. Brundidge, Daniel, Hester, corner of
 Fourth.
 Sept. 13. Campbell, Jonathan, from lower end of
 Pine, at the Marine Hospital.
 Oct. 2. Cathcart, Allen, 7 Catharine-lane, aged 37,
Ireland.
 — 6. Christie, Elizabeth, from Dover, at Belle-
 vue, aged 31, *England*.
 — 23. Christie, Mrs. Sarah, Front, near Crane-
 Wharf, *Scotland*.
 Sept. 12. Caywood, Abigail, 129 Water, aged 17
New-York.
 — 17. Christopher, Jacob, brig Columbia, at the
 Marine Hospital
 — 28. Church, Julian, 15 Fair.
 — 25. Coles, Chloe, 10 Little-George.
 Oct. 22. Coles, Sarah, 25 Water.

† This person had not been out of her house for eight weeks
 previous to her being attacked with the fever. Her case was,
 notwithstanding, reported to be decided.

‡ Died on the third day of disease.

- Oct. 28. Collis Maria, 63 Roosevelt, aged 15.
 ——— Collins, Mrs. wife of Isaac, from 189, Pearl,
 West-Chester.
- 2. Colver, William, from 72 Vesey, Belle-
 vue.
- 3. Covet, Mary, 86 St. James', aged 76.
- 12. Craig, Mrs. 22 Garden, aged 24, *Philadel.*
- Sept. 28. Crane, Abner, son of David, aged 11,
 Greenwich, near Courtland.
- Oct. 26. Crowel, Charles, from George st. wharf,
 Marine Hospital.
- Sept. 10. Crowser, John, from the Alms-House
 gate, Marine Hospital.
- 8. Crygier, Cornelius, jun. 18 Warren, *native*,
- 28. Culloden, Mary, wife of George, Chandler
 Baltimore, from 6 Stone, Bellevue.
- Oct. 5. Cushing, James, from 7 Hague, Bellevue.
- 1. Davis, James, 23 Fletcher.
- Sept. 25. Davis, Robert, from Pine, Marine Hos-
 pital.
- 24. Develin, James, from corner of Pine and
 Front, Marine Hospital, *Ireland*.
- Oct. 19. Decker, Elizabeth Beedle, 19 Water.
- Sept. 26. Deforest, Theodorus, jun. 13 Beekman-
 slip, aged 19, *New-York*.
- 5. Deforest, Mrs. Mary, 133 Water, *New-*
York.
- 26. Degraw, William, apprentice to Wm.
 Rider, 13 Barclay, aged 18, *New-York*.
- 8. Dinah, (a black woman) 38 Church.
- 8. Diver, Charles, from Elm, Marine Hos-
 pital.
- 8. Dixon, David, merchant, 40 Wall.
- 27. Dixon, John, from 95 Pearl, Bellevue,
 aged 23.
- 19. Dobbins, Mrs. Charlotte, Water, corner
 of Beekman-slip, *Pennsylvania*.
- July 30. Dougherty, James, from 128 Water, Ma-
 rine Hospital, *Ireland*.

- Sept. 23. Doughty, Morris, 63 E. George, *Ireland*.
 — 14. Doyle, Michael, from Second, Bellevue.
 — 26. Drake, Fanny, wife of John, Essex,
 aged 50.
 — 14. Dufort, Mrs. Jane, 18 Fletcher.
 — *24. Dunn, Mary, 3 Rider, aged 38, *Ireland*.
 Oct. 2. Dwyre, Anthony, from 7 Hague, Bellevue.
 Sept. 8. Ellis, Nancy, near the new church, Bul-
 lock, *native*.
 — 16. Ellis, William, 9 Dover.
 — 6. Everte, Chas. from Bear Market, Marine
 Hospital.
 Oct. †4. Fanshaw, Harriot, daughter of Mrs. Sarah,
 51 Cliff, aged 10, *New-York*.
 Sept. 28. Feely Michael, from Augustus, at Belle-
 vue.
 — 6. Feeny, Edward, aged 25, *Ireland*.
 — 29. Fine, James Lefferts, son of Jacobus, 117
 Fly-Market, aged 18, *New-York*.
 — 15. Finney, Catharine, from 11 Augustus,
 Bellevue, aged 26, *Ireland*.
 — 16. Finney, John, 11 Mulberry, aged 38,
 Ireland.
 — 11. Finnick, Patrick, 25 Augustus, aged 25,
 Ireland.
 — 21. Fitzpatrick, James, 152 Front, aged 22,
 Ireland.
 — Flanagan, Christopher, book seller, from
 151 Water, West-Chester.
 — 16. Fleming, John, from Pingree's Alley, at
 Bellevue, aged 21, *Ireland*.
 — 27. Fleron, Andr'e, 144 Greenwich, *France*.
 — 21. Fogerty, Eleanor, 306 Water, *Ireland*.
 Oct. 5. Foley, Margaret, 7 Hague, aged 28,
 Ireland.

* Was employed in nursing James Develin, corner of Pine
 and Front streets.

† Died on the third day of disease.

- Oct. 23. Francis Tracy, 6 Upper Barley.
 — 15. Fraser, David, son of Duncan, 8 Batavia Lane, aged 18, *New-York*.
 Sept. 2. Fraser, William, house carpenter, from 3 Chapel, Marine Hospital, *Scotland*.
 — 30. Fulton, Alexander, grocer, corner Nassau and Ann, aged 30, *Ireland*.
 — 28. Gall, Patrick, from 60 Beaver, Bellevue, aged 60, *Ireland*.
 — 30. Gallagher, James, from 5 Tryon Row, Bellevue, aged 24, *Ireland*.
 — 27. Garcy, George, from Pine, near Front, Bellevue.
 — 29. Gathrey, Andrew, from 15 Rose, Bellevue, aged 31, *Ireland*.
 Oct. 4. Giggins, Thomas, from 5 Cedar, Bellevue.
 — 1. Gilchrist, Archibald, dyer, 174 William, aged 38, *Scotland*.
 Sept. 21. Gilchrist, James, 30 Lumber, aged 32, *Scotland*.
 Oct. 2. Gollow, Stephen W. 51 Roosevelt.
 — 13. Gomez, Catharine, 77 Pine.
 Sept. 14. Gordon, Mrs. 98 Front, aged 70, *Scotland*.
 Sept. 8. Gowdy, John, 64 Cedar, aged 23, *Ireland*.
 Oct. 10. Graham, Mrs. Margaret, 21 Pump.
 — Grice, Margaret, Arundel, corner of Hester.
 — 8. Griffith, Robert, 41 Church.
 Sept. 28. Habbermil, Mary, 115 Greenwich, aged 17, *New-York*.
 — 8. Haddock, James, nearly opposite Albany Bason, Greenwich.
 Aug. 31. Haines, Joshua, Snow Mehitabel, from Havannah, Marine Hospital.
 Oct. 13. Hamilton, Catharine, 21 Rose, aged 40.
 — 27. Hallman, Thomas, Henry.
 — 15. Halsall, James, 134 William, aged 35, *England*.
 Sept. 16. Hardley, John, ship Flora, Gaine's wharf, Marine Hospital.

- Sept. 28. Hartman, John, taken up from the fields near the State Prison, 15th Sept. Bellevue, aged 53, *Germany*.
- 19. Harvey, James, from 90 Front, Bellevue.
- Oct. 12. Havemeyer, Charles L. 31 Pine, *Germany*.
- Sept. 20. Hazard, Robinson, 86 St. James', aged 26.
- Oct. 2. Heroy, Clarkson, 142 Harman.
- Sept. 14. Herring, Charles, son of Abraham, Greenwich, *native*.
- July 18. Hibbron, Christopher, from 92 Maiden Lane, at the Marine Hospital.
- Sept. 29. Hink, Mary, 73 Broad, aged 16, *New-Jersey*.
- 7. Hobart Maria, 161 Fly-Market, aged 9.
- 7. Hodgkinson, John, Comedian, from the Tontin Coffee-House, died in Washington, *England*.
- Oct. 10. Hoffman, Daniel, from 312 Water, Bellevue, aged 32.
- *3. Hogg, Mary, wife of John, taylor, 24 Beaver, aged 25, *England*.
- Sept. 18. Hollidge, Richard, from schooner Weymouth, North River, at the Marine Hospital.
- 13. Honesty, Miss Nancy, from near Potter's Field, at Bellevue, aged 39.
- † 26. Howell, Silas, W. at Albany.
- Sept. 27. Hoyt, Lydia, wife of Saml. taylor, from 82 Liberty, at Bellevue.
- 30. Hunt, Mrs. Rachel, wife of Dr. Hunt, Greenwich, near Budd.
- ‡ 14. Hunter, William, and Mary his wife, 58 Front, *Ireland*.

* Died on the third day of disease.

† Had been in New-York a few days before, where it is supposed by some, that he got sick; others attribute his sickness and death, as well as that of Capt. Lansing, to a parcel of skins on board the vessel, which are said to have emitted a very offensive smell.

‡ Both died about 5 o'clock, P. M. 14th September, within a few moments of each other, after an illness of four days.

- Oct. 22. Huther, George, baker, Lombard, corner
E. George, *Germany*.
- 15. Hutson, John, from 23 Fletcher, at Belle-
vue, aged 18, *England*.
- Sept. 9. Hyde, Mrs. wife of John, Tontine Coffee-House, Wall.
- 14. Hyde, John, of the Tontine Coffee-House,
Rivington.
- 15. Jackson, Hugh, from 121 Water, 4
Roosevelt, *Ireland*.
- Oct. 4. James, William, from 3 Dover, at Belle-
vue.
- Sept. 28. Jenkins, Manuel, 18 Chesnut, aged 30.
- Oct. 3. Innis, Lawrance, from 4 Dover, at Belle-
vue.
- Sept. 13. Johnson, Dinah, (a black woman) 29
Chamber.
- 8. Johnson, Paul R. printer, 46 Cedar, aged
24, *New-Jersey*.
- 17. Johnson, Phœbe, Leonard, near Chapel.
14. Jones, David, son of John F. from 46 Di-
vision, at Bellevue, aged 15, *Wales*.
- Oct. 1. Jones, James, son of Benjamin, janitor of
Columbia College, aged 14.
- Sept. 10. Jones, John R. 142 Chatham, aged 22,
Wales.
4. Jones, John F. Water,
- 11. Jones, Thomas, 1 Pine, aged 46, *Wales*.
- Oct. 2. Irvin, Sally, corner of Courtland and
Washington, aged 32, *New-Jersey*.
- Sept. 30. Israel, Charles, from 5 New Slip, at
Bellevue.
- Sept. 28. Kelly, Hugh, 31 Augustus, aged 32, *Ireland*.
- Oct. 28. Kennedy, Maria, 23 Old-slip, aged 2 years.
- Sept. 16. King, John, 86 Chamber.*
- 24. Kirkwood, James, hostler, from 92 Mai-
den-lane, aged 27, *Scotland*.†

* Mr. King had been at work at the New Coffee-House.

† This man was taken sick at the livery-stable of the late Mr. Stay-
ley, and sent to the Marine Hospital, on the 23d July, from whence he
returned to the city perfectly recovered on the 19th of August, and re-

- Sept. 29. Kniffin, Daniel, 70 John, aged 20, *New-York*.
- 29. Knowland, William, from Pearl-street, Bellevue, aged 27, *Ireland*.†
- 26. Lansing, Abraham D. schooner Mohawk, Albany. See *Howell, Silas W.*
- Oct. 5. Lannuier, Stanislaus, 60 Broad, aged 24, *France*.
- 4. Latour, Francis, Greenwich, corner Robinson, aged 6, *New-London*.
- Sept. 19. Leuke, Henry, from Cross-street, at Bellevue.
- 28. Lightbody, Isaac, from 25 Barclay, at Bellevue, aged 23.
- 18. Lively, Dominic, 64 Front, aged 35, *Ireland*.
- Oct. 20. Lloyd, Mrs. Laight-street, aged 45, *New-York*.
- 21. Logan, William, from Catharine-lane, Marine Hospital.
- 9. Lomagne, Ann Theresa, 3 Water-street.
- Sept. 20. Long, James, Bayard.
- 28. Luddington, Henry, Washington, near the Bear-market.
- 29. M'Andre, Patrick, Cross, aged 33, *Ireland*.
- Oct. 7. M'Dermot, George, from 51 Pearl, at Bellevue, aged 43, *Ireland*.
- Sept. 28. M'Dewitt, James, 18 Pearl, aged 4 1-2, years.
- Oct. 12. M'Dewitt, John, do. aged 40, *Ireland*.

commenced his employment as an hostler. About the 18th of September, he had gone to Newark with a carriage, where, finding himself sick on the morning of the 23d, he caused himself to be conveyed to the door of the office, where he requested to be sent to the Marine Hospital. There was, however, at this time, no boat; and as he had no lodgings in town, to which he could retire, he was conducted to the Bellevue Hospital, where he died next day of black vomit.

† This man had crawled from his lodgings to the office door, on the morning of the 16th Sept. from whence he was carried to Bellevue.

- Sept. 27. M'Donald, Jane, daughter of Duncan, 45
Nassau, *New-York*.
- Oct. 2. M'Graw, Robert, 23 Mulberry, aged 24,
Ireland.
- Sept. 3. M'Intosh, Angus, 8 Batavia-lane, *Scotland*.
- Oct. 12. M'Manus, Michael, 62 Cedar, aged 35,
Ireland.
- Mabee, James, 33 Ann-street.
- Mackaness, Thomas Thornton, son of
Thomas Mackaness, Esq. of Windsor-
Hill, Greenwich.
- 8. Mackay, John, 8 Ferry-street.
- Sept. 29. Maden, Hugh, opposite the Catholic bury-
ing-ground, Bowery, aged 28, *Ireland*.
- *28. Malice, James, from 33 Ann-street, at
Bellevue, aged 42, *Scotland*.
- 27. Managhan, Edward, grocer, from 152
Front-street, at 333 Broadway, aged 35,
Ireland.
- Managhan, Charles, brother of do. from
152 Front-street, at Esopus.
- Sept. 16. Marino, John, ship Delaware, Rector-st.
wharf, Marine Hospital.
- 30. Marsh, Ephraim, 12 Rector, aged 24, *N. Jersey*.
- 8. Martin, Mrs. Bedford-st. near State-Pri-
son, *England*.
- 19. Maxwell, John, Crosby.
- Oct. 13. Miles, Ann, 20 Broadway, aged 18, *New-York*.
- Sept. 9. Miller, Mrs. William G. 41 Nassau.
- 18. Miller, Miss Maria, from Front-street, at
Greenwich, above Tyler's.
- 25. Mills, Jane, 55 Henry, aged 26, *Ireland*.
- 26. Mills, Mary Ann, 33 Ann, aged 12, *New-York*.

* On the 26th of September, this man was sent to Bellevue, his wife accompanying him as a nurse.

- Oct. 2. Mills, Martha, 50 Stone.
 — 23. Mitchell, Lewis, 35 Read.
 — 9. Murdock, Mrs. Jane, 28 Water, aged 36,
Ireland.
 — 16. Murphy, Benjamin, from 78 Chatham, at
 Bellevue, aged 24, *Ireland.*
 — 5. Murphy, John, 4 Swartout's-Bason, aged
 30, *Ireland.*
 — 3. Murray, Andrew, from 100 William-st.
 Bellevue.
 — 1. Murray, Mary, wife of do. from do. do.
 — 3. Myers, Maria, daughter of Lewis, 24 Wil-
 liam-street, aged 9, *Philadelphia.*
 Sept. 27.* Needham, John, cartman, 103 Henry,
 aged 32, *England.*
 — 16. Newkirk, Gysbert, news-carrier, 19 Rose,
 aged 60, *Germany.*
 — 15. Nichols, Lewis, printer, 308 Broadway,
native.
 — 24. Nicholas, ———, from 86 Maiden-lane,
 Bellevue.
 — 8. O'Brian, John, Cross-street, aged 28, *Ire-
 land.*
 Oct. 15. Otis, Eleanor, 36 Lower Robinson.
 Sept. 28. Parks, Thomas, from 90 Front-street, on
 Long-Island, aged 38, *Ireland.*
 — 5. Pelsue, John, 4 Church, aged 17, *N. York.*
 Aug. 17. Pfifer, Mrs. from 102 Water-street, Ma-
 rine Hospital.
 Sept. 16. Phyfe, John, 80 Wall, aged 28, *Scotland.*
 — 1. Preston, Alfred, from upper end Division,
 at Marine Hospital, *native.*
 Oct. 6. Price, Margaret, Arundel, corner of Hes-
 ter, aged 25, *Wales.*
 — 3. Prior, Rachel, 59 St. James, aged 4.

* This man attended as a cartman, at the store of Post and Russel, corner of South and Pine-streets, till the 21st of September, the day on which he sickened.

- Sept. 25. Purcell, Dominick, from 8 Orange, Bellevue, *Ireland*.
- 7. Pymer, George, son of David, from 76 Pine, Marine Hospital, aged 4.
- Oct. 11. Rapp, Oras, 151 Fly-market, aged 12.
- 27. La Ravine, Dr. Stephen Jean Henry Baptiste, 144 Greenwich-street, *France*.
- 12. Reynolds, Thomas, 4 mile stone, aged 50. *Ireland*.
- Sept. 14. Richards, Stephen, taylor, 5 Read-street.
- 27. Richardson, Horatio, from 156 Front, at Bellevue, aged 23, *Boston*.
- 29. Rider, William, turner, 13 Barclay, *native*.
- Oct. 1. Ritcher, Andrew, from near Bunker's-hill, at Bellevue, aged 36, *Germany*.
- Sept. 26. Robinson, Harriot, 86 James-street, aged 19, *New-York*.
- 15. Rodermond, John, tavern-keeper, 5 Pine, aged 40, *Germany*.
- Oct. 31. Rose, Ann, daughter of John, 113 Liberty.
- Sept. 14. Rumsey, Thomas E. merchant, from 182 Pearl, Greenwich.
- Oct. 2. Russel, Jacob, 104 Greenwich, aged 8.
- Sept. 11. Saltonstall, Miss Hannah, from 86 Pearl, Greenwich.
- 15. Schultz, Henry G. from Water, at 52 Cherry, *Germany*.
- Oct. 28. Sells, Mary, 22 Mulberry.
- Sept. 24. Sharp, Grace, 17 Thomas, aged 35, *New-York*.
- 30. Simpson, Mary, from 23 Cedar, Bellevue.
- Singer, James, from Greenwich-street, Bellevue.
- 11. Skillinger, Sarah, (of Philadelphia) from 95 Courtlandt, at Bellevue.
- Oct. 20. Sloan, Arthur, from 64 Front, at Bellevue, aged 25, *Ireland*.
- Sept. 20. Smith, Caleb, merchant, from 15 Market. field, corner Fourth and Delancey.

- Oct. 10. Smith, Deborah, 47 Gold-street, *native*.
 Sept. 17. Smith, James, Orchard, corner of Grand, aged 63, *New-York*.
 Oct. 5. Smith, James Harvey, apprentice to James Carr, Elizabeth, aged 17, *Long-Island*.
 Sept. 8. Smith, Paschal N. President of the Columbian Insurance Company, at Harsenville.
 ——— 16. Smith, Rachel, Depeyster-street, aged 27, *New-Jersey*.
 ——— 17. Smith, William, from 100 Water, Bellevue, aged 21, *Ireland*.
 ——— 24. Smithen, John, 277 Water, aged 16, *Halifax*.
 ——— 27. Snyder, Elizabeth, 45 Nassau, aged 32, *New-York*.
 Sept. 4. Snythen, Daniel, 70 John.
 ——— 4. Spinnage, Daniel, shoemaker, 122 Water, *New-Jersey*.
 ——— Stanley, Margaret, Charlotte.
 Aug. 31. Stayley, Andrew, from 92 Maiden-lane, Marine Hospital, *England*.
 Sept. 19. Stewart, Mr. a ship steward, 88 Water-st.
 Nov. 1. Stockwell, Abel, cooper, 12 Fletcher, *native*.
 Sept. 19. Sweeny, Nancy, from 29 George, Bellevue, aged 21.
 ——— 10. Sykes, John, grocer, 69 Catharine, *native*.
 Oct. 6. Tabele, Mrs. 52 Nassau.
 ——— 8. Tabele, Richard, merchant, 52 do. *New-York*.
 Sept. 11. Taylor, John, 46 Cedar, aged 35, *England*.
 Oct. 3. Ten Eyck, Elizabeth, 37 Beaver, aged 60, *New-Jersey*.
 Sept. 26. Thomas, David, 193 Water, aged 26, *Wales*.
 ——— 19. Thomas, John, cartman, 46 Chapel.
 Oct. 29. Thorne, Fanny, 170 Division, aged 16, *New-Jersey*.
 Nov. 1. Thornton, Samuel, 28 Water.
 Sept. 29. Tice, Catharine, from 70 John, Bellevue, aged 26.

- Oct. 3. Tiebout, Miss, daughter of Mrs. Sarah, 358 Pearl, *native*.
- Sept. 14. Tracy, Alexander, from 153 Water, Bellevue, aged 14.
- Oct. 15. Turner, Sarah, 63 William, aged 50.
- Sept. 20. Underwood, John, butcher, Elizabeth.
- Oct. 1. Vail, Joseph, 54 E. George, aged 38, *E. Chester*.
- Sept. 27. Valence, John, First.
- 27. Van Gelder, Phœbe, 42 William, *native*.
- 30. Van Horne, Philip, apprentice to Hiram Gardner, 91 Broadway.
- 15. Van Tastle, Joshua, cartman, 2 Leonard, aged 35, *native*.
- Oct. 2. Van Rantz, Peter, 33 Oak, aged 13, *Long-Island*.
- 4. Van Steenburgh, Samuel, 35 Cedar, aged 66, *New-York*.
- Sept. 17. Van Wart, John, N. Catharine, aged 25, *native*.
- Oct. 2. Voisin, Miss Rosillana, daughter of Madame Voisin, 146 William, aged 11, *N. York*.
- 7. Wade, Elizabeth, Catharine, aged 9.
- Wainwright, Francis, druggist, from 152 Pearl-street, at Newtown, Long-Island.
- Oct. 1. Wallace, Mary Macomb, 95 Greenwich, aged 10, *Ireland*.
- Sept. 14. Walker, Mrs. Alice, 132 Front, *Wigan in Lancashire, England*.
- Oct. 10. Walsh, Arthur, 64 Front, aged 5 years, *Ireland*.
- 6. Walsh, Patrick, from 54 Pearl, at Bellevue, aged 46, *Ireland*.
- 27. Walsh, Patrick, aged 25, *Ireland*.
- Sept. 28. Walsh, John, Hester, aged 36, *Ireland*.
- Oct. 12. Webb, Thomas, from Orange, Bellevue.
- Sept. 26. Webster, John, 156 Front, aged 27, *Massachusetts*.

- Oct. 3. Whelan, Eliza, 4 Dover, aged 23, *Ireland*.
 Sept. 27. White, Jane, 56 Beaver, aged 26, *do*.
 Oct. 12. White, John, from Coenties-slip, Bellevue.
 — 6. Wilder, Jonas, 24 Charlotte-st. aged 35,
England.
 Sept. 26. Wigginton, Seth B. of the house of Richard
 S. Hackley & Co. 128 Broadway.
 Oct. 12. Williams, Henry, from 72 Front, Bellevue.
 — 21. Windle, Thomas, 56 Lombard.
 Sept. 15. Wilson, Alexander, from 105 William,
 Bellevue.
 — 5. Woodruff, William, from Moore, Marine
 Hospital.
 — 11. Wright, Susannah, from Water, corner of
 Lombard and Catharine.
 — 15. Young, William, from 102 Water, Budd.
 Aug. 27. Young, Daniel, from corner Washington
 and Duane, at Marine Hospital, *Scot-*
land.
 Sept. 28. Zellers, George, Little George, aged 20,
New-York.

A TABLE,

EXHIBITING AT ONE VIEW, THE NUMBER OF DEATHS BY MALIG-
 NANT FEVER, WHICH OCCURRED IN EACH PARTICULAR
 STREET, AS ALSO AT BELLEVUE AND THE MARINE HOS-
 PITAL.

Ann	2	Brought over	19
Anthony	1	Bellevue	52
Arundel	1	Bloomingdale	1
Augustus	3	Brannon-street	2
Barclay	2	Broad	2
Barley	1	Broadway	7
Batavia-lane	2	Bowery	1
Bayard-street	1	Budd	1
Beaver	3	Bullock	1
Bedford	1	Burling-slip	1
Beekman-slip	2	Catharine-lane	1
		Catharine-street	3
	19		
			91

Brought over	91	Brought over	178
Cedar	5	Henry	2
Chamber	2	Hester	2
Chapel	1	James	4
Chatham	1	John	3
Charlotte	2	Laight	1
Cherry	3	Leonard	2
Chesnut	1	Liberty	1
Church	4	Lombard	3
Cliff	2	Lumber	3
Courtlandt	3	Maiden-lane	2
Crane-wharf	1	Marine Hospital	28
Crosby-street	1	Moore-street	1
Cross	3	Mulberry	2
Depeyster	2	Nassau	6
Division	2	Oak	1
Dover	2	Old-slip	1
East George	2	Orange-street	1
Elizabeth	3	Orchard	1
Essex	1	Partition	2
Fair	1	Pearl	6
Ferry	1	Pine	5
First	1	Provoost	1
Fletcher	2	Pump	1
Fly-market	3	Read	4
Fourth	1	Rector	1
Frankfort	1	Rivington	1
Front	11	Robinson	4
Garden	2	Rose	2
George	2	Roosevelt	3
Gold	2	Ryder	1
Greenwich	5	Second	1
Greenwich-street	9	Stone	1
Hague	2	Swartwout's Bason	1
Hammond	1	Thomas	1
Harman	1	Vandewater	2
Harsenville	1	Wall	2
	178		281

Brought over	281	Brought over	295
Warren	2	Washington	1
Water	12	William	6
	295		302

If to the above, we add 40, who, it is probable, caught the disorder in the city, and afterwards died in various parts of the country, the number will amount to 342, which is, perhaps, pretty near the truth.

Although it is expected that the preceding table will, in general, be deemed interesting, it is believed that a list exhibiting the number of cases, which have occurred in each particular street, will be found, at least, fully as satisfactory. A table of the former kind, only informs us of the particular spots at which different degrees of mortality prevailed; in particular, it mentions the deaths of fifty-two persons at Bellevue, twenty-eight at the Marine Hospital, two in Brannon-street, one in Rivington-street, &c. whereas it is notorious, that no one of these sickened in either of these places. Again, when we are told officially, that one hundred and seventy-six persons were sent to Bellevue, and sixty-four to the Marine Hospital, although it justly affords a very exalted opinion of the importance of these valuable institutions, it does not convey to the mind, a single idea of the precise part of the city in which the disease was most predominant. To enable the reader to judge for himself, upon this subject, the following is submitted.

*A TABLE,**

EXHIBITING THE NUMBER OF CASES OF MALIGNANT FEVER,
WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN EACH PARTICULAR STREET OF
THE CITY, DURING THE LATE EPIDEMIC.

Ann	2	Brought over	128
Anthony	10	Chatham	2
Arundel	1	Chatham-square	2
Augustus	13	Charlotte-street	6
Bancker	3	Cheapside	4
Barclay	6	Cherry	5
Barley	4	Chesnut	2
Batavia-lane	3	Church	7
Bayard-street	1	Cliff	4
Beaver	5	Corlaer's-hook	3
Beaver-lane	2	Courtlandt-street	5
Bedford-street	1	Crane-wharf	1
Bedlow	4	Crosby-street	1
Beekman	2	Cross	5
Bloomingdale	1	Delancey	1
Brannon-street	3	Depeyster	10
Bridewell	1	Division	9
Broad-street	13	Dover	9
Broadway	17	Duane	1
Bowery	4	Dutch	1
Budd-street	2	East George	8
Bullock	1	Elizabeth	5
Burling-slip	1	Elm	3
Catharine-lane	1	Essex	2
Catharine-street	4	Fair	4
Cedar	7	Fayette	1
Chamber	7	Ferry	1
Chapel	6	First	3
	128		245

* It is necessary to observe, that in this Table, the streets mentioned, are those in which persons were taken sick, not those to which they were removed. It may, likewise be mentioned, that of the cases which occurred in Water-street, Front-street, Pearl-street, &c. at least five-sixths were between Burling and Old-slips.

Brought over	245	Brought over	525
Fletcher	4	Nassau	8
Fly-market	11	New	1
Fourth-sreet	2	New-slip	2
Frankfort	3	Norfolk-street	2
George	6	Oak	2
Gold	7	Old-slip	1
Gouverneur	1	Orange-street	5
Greenwich (village)	5	Orchard	1
Greenwich-street	26	Partition	3
Hague	6	Pearl	26
Hammond	1	Pell	1
Harman	7	Pine	14
Harrison	2	Pingree's-alley	3
Harsenville	1	Potter's-field, vicinity of	1
Henry	10	Provoost-street	2
Hester	5	Pump	6
Hudson	2	Read	10
Jay	1	Rector	2
James	12	Rider	3
Jew's-alley	2	Rivington	1
John-street	4	Robinson	6
Laight	1	Roosevelt	6
Leonard	2	Rose	7
Liberty	4	Rutgers	5
Little Water	2	Second	3
Lombard	5	Sixth	1
Lumber	5	Skinner	2
Maiden-lane	7	South	1
Magazine-street	1	Spring	3
Mary	1	Stanton	1
Moore	8	State	1
Moore's-Buildings	1	Stone	3
Moore-street (North)	5	Stuyvesant's ground	1
Mott	7	Swartwout's Bason	1
Mulberry	11	Thames-street	2
Murray	2	Third	2
	425		564

Brought over	564	Brought over	582
Thomas	2	Warren	2
Tryon-row	1	Washington	5
Vandewater-street	4	Water	40
Vesey	3	Whitehall	2
Vestry	1	William	14
Wall	7		
			645
	582		

Upon comparing the foregoing tables with the official report of the City-Inspector, contained in the preceding pages, it may, at first sight, appear that there some is difference. If, however, it be considered, that, in that gentleman's report, the twenty-eight persons who died of Malignant Fever, at the Marine Hospital, are not included, nor several others, who fell victims to the same disease, previous to the daily meeting of the Board of Health; the statements will be found to be almost, if not altogether the same. A similar remark will be found equally correct with respect to the number of cases.

CHAPTER V.

THE OPINION OF SEVERAL EMINENT PHYSICIANS, RESPECTING
THE CAUSE OF MALIGNANT FEVER, IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT
PARTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

*The first of these is from Dr. PARDON BOWEN, a celebrated
Physician of Providence, Rhode-Island.*

TO MR. JAMES HARDIE.

“ SIR,

“ YOUR letter of the 3d instant, written by the direction of the Board of Health of the city of New-York, requesting information of the origin and nature of the Malignant Fever, which then prevailed here, and a retrospective view of the fever in former years, came to hand while I was in the country, in a state of convalescence, from a fever taken, I presume, by constant attendance upon patients labouring under the fever, before their removal; and I have been compelled since my return to town, by the pressure of business, and the time necessarily taken to procure correct information, to defer my answer till the present time, as most of the persons, from whom the information was to be derived, were scattered about the country; and I hope the Board of Health will not impute the delay to neglect, or want of respect.

“ I will now, without further preface, endeavour to give you as correct a statement of the fever, as the most careful investigation will admit, and I hope, with the candour the importance of the subject demands.

“ And first, with respect to the origin of the fever. In order to investigate this point, it will be necessary

to take into consideration the following circumstances, viz.

“ In the first place, the general state of the health of the town, and especially, of that part where the fever prevailed.

“ 2dly. The condition of the houses, wharves, docks, stores, &c. in the vicinity of the fever; and,

“ 3dly. The connection this district had with the shipping.

“ With respect to the first circumstance, the health of the town, &c.

“ At the time the fever made its appearance, and for a long time before, the town in general was remarkably healthy; and this was the case, more especially, with that part of the town, which was the seat of the disorder, immediately preceding its origin. For several years past, the town has been exempt from any remarkable epidemic catarrhal affection, angina, or other complaints, by many deemed the precursors of Yellow Fever.

“ 2dly. Respecting the condition of the houses, wharves, docks, stores, &c. comprising the seat of the fever.

“ On the most careful scrutiny, it appeared that this district was remarkably clean and free from filth. There were no offensive gutters, nor accumulation of putrid animal or vegetable substances, to be found in or near it. The houses were detached from each other, generally; and in the occupancy of families, who might vie with any equal number, in point of cleanliness, in any part of the town. The wharves and stores had nothing offensive about them, and the

docks were as clean and free from any obvious, putrid and noxious effluvia, or filth, as in the most cleanly part of the town; and much more so than in some other parts, where the docks, at times, have been extremely offensive, from the noisome stench issuing from them; and which, at the same time, has been encreased by the putrid effluvium arising from damaged beef and fish in the contiguous cellars and stores; and yet as far as my knowledge extends, no Malignant or Yellow Fever has ever arisen therefrom, although these apparently formidable agents, with their combined powers, have existed in a number of cases, for several years past, that have fallen under my observation, and to such extent as to have excited very serious alarm for the consequences.

“3dly. With respect to the connection of the sickly district with the shipping.

“It is to be understood that the fever was confined, except in three or four cases, to be mentioned hereafter, to both sides of Water-street, extending about 113 yards parallel with the wharves. From the back part of the houses next the river, the distance may be about 35 or 40 yards from the head of the wharves, and from the opposite side of the street, about 80 or 90 yards; and it appears as a matter of fact, that all vessels from the West-Indies and elsewhere, have been permitted, and have actually come up to the town, and unloaded their cargoes at the wharves, without cleansing, or performing quarantine, until since the commencement of the fever.

“And it furthermore appears, that three vessels from different parts of the West-Indies, have arrived and unloaded at the wharves within the infected district, a very little while before the fever broke out, viz: the brig *Planter*, from St. Croix, arrived on the 4th of July; the brig *Hiram*, from Antigua, and the

brig Juno, from Havanna, both arrived on the 12th of July, and the fever began in Captain Stephen Russell's family on the 19th following; between which time and the 25th, nineteen persons more were attacked, seventeen in this district, and two living at a distance from it. At this time, the town council ordered all that part of the town evacuated, and the vessels removed; and the fever immediately ceased, except in two cases; one of which, a son of Captain Trowbridge, occurred on the 7th, and Mr. Clifford, on the 12th of August; the latter of whom declared to my partner, Dr. Eddy, and myself, that he was two or three times on board the brig Hiram, which vessel had been removed from her former situation, where the fever began, to the wharf back of the shop where he was employed, instead of being sent down to the quarantine ground. She has since gone to sea, and there are the strongest grounds to believe that Trowbridge had been in the infected street; and if not, the shop where he worked was not more than 30 or 40 yards from where the fever first began.

“Of the two persons above-mentioned, who were early attacked, and resided at a distance from the infected part, one was Captain John Warner, and the other Mr. Jos. Masury, jun. and it is perfectly well known, that both had been employed on these wharves, and had been on board the suspected vessels; and there is no doubt but that they had the same fever the others had. Warner was quite yellow, and Masury died on the fifth day with the genuine black vomit, and other concomitant symptoms of Yellow Fever.

“In addition to the above, I would beg leave to call the attention of the Board of Health to the following circumstances, viz. On the 25th of July, the order for the evacuation of the infected district, and removal of the shipping was issued and immediately

complied with, and the fever ceased, so that many families returned to their habitations, about the middle of August, the very season when, in general, the Yellow Fever begins its ravages as an epidemic, and yet not the slightest case of fever or other sickness has appeared in this district, (August 28th) and the town continues very healthy; and what renders the case still more remarkable, is, that this district was in so clean a state, that no kind of alteration of its former condition has been made in it, except that six loads of sand have been carted into one dock, and that merely because two privies were situated over it, but which were constantly washed by the ebbing and flowing of the tide, and of course, no considerable accumulation could, or did take place. This dock was not offensive, and the house adjoining the wharf, and very near to the dock, was the only one, whose inhabitants were exempt from the fever.

“ It further appears by the declaration of Captain Benjamin Dexter, who had three of his family taken with the fever, that when some of these vessels pumped out their bilge-water, it was so extremely offensive, that the workmen on his store were made sick, and in some of them to vomiting. And Mr. Goff declares, that the bilge-water pumped from one of these vessels was so particularly offensive, that he was obliged to shut up the doors and windows of his shop, notwithstanding his workmen (shoemakers) had been much accustomed to the smell of bilge-water.

“ I would further state to the Board of Health, that the persons attacked with the fever had been on board the suspected vessels, as well as that they lived in the vicinity of them.

“ With respect to the condition of the abovementioned vessels, the following circumstances appear, viz. the brig Planter had two men taken sick with

yellow-fever on board, at St. Croix, early in the month of May, who were carried on shore, as soon as the disease was ascertained, and died ; but I cannot learn that the clothing belonging to them was brought home, and the vessel underwent no cleansing, before or after, her arrival.

“ The Hiram arrived on the 12th, from Antigua, and on her arrival, Mr. Church, one of her owners, says that he threw overboard twenty dollars worth of sailors’ clothes, and the reason he assigned for it was, that the countenances of the people did not look well, and he thought the air of the vessel was not good, and that part of the infection came from her.

“ The brig Juno also arrived, 12th July, from Havana, and had one or two people sick on the passage home.

“ All these vessels, without performing quarantine or being cleansed, immediately on their arrival, unloaded at the several wharves of the sickly district, a little before the sickness began, as before stated.

“ Having thus related the circumstances respecting the origin of the sickness, as far as they have come to my knowledge, I am now to reply to that part of your request respecting its nature.

“ When the fever first made its appearance, considering the number attacked, and in so small a compass, in the vicinity of the wharves and vessels, and very near to where the yellow fever had twice before appeared in an epidemic form, it highly excited our fears, and when added to these circumstances, we found them labouring under the following symptoms—rigours—violent pains in the head

and eyes, back and limbs—prostration of strength—sickness at stomach, with great distress, which was a constant and universal symptom with them all—with fever, &c. we were almost confirmed in the belief of Yellow Fever; but as their eyes had not that suffusion so common to that fever, and the more decided and unequivocal symptoms kept off for four or five days, and considering the earliness of the season, we still hoped that we might be mistaken, and did not make a report to the council, officially, till the fifth day, when the symptoms assumed such an aspect, as left no doubt of its real nature; for now one patient was attacked with the black or coffee-coloured vomit; another had a livid countenance, with petechiæ; a third turned yellow; a fourth had black vomit and was yellow; a fifth had black vomit and stools; and a sixth black vomit and stools, and profuse hæmorrhage from the mouth, stomach, &c. and all of them great sickness at the stomach.

“ Six persons died about the fifth and sixth day from the attack. These symptoms, connected with the suddenness of the deaths, &c. will clearly point out to any person competent to judge of the case, that it was unequivocally the Yellow or Malignant Fever.

“ I will now take a retrospective view of the foregoing statement, and draw the conclusion that appears to me, naturally and fairly to result from it.

“ It then appears that the town of Providence has enjoyed a great degree of health for several years past, and been exempt from those epidemics supposed the precursors of Yellow Fever. That about the 20th of July, seventeen or eighteen persons were attacked with Yellow Fever, in a small district, till this time remarkably healthy—That this district was very clean and free from any obvious cause of sickness about the

houses, stores, docks or wharves; but that three different vessels, from three different ports of the West-Indies, had arrived at, and unloaded on, the wharves of this district, without performing quarantine or being cleansed; that one had lost two men with Yellow Fever, at St. Croix; another was suspected to be infected, by the owner; and that the third had had sickness on the homeward bound passage: that the inhabitants of this district and the vessels were removed on the 26th of July, and that the fever ceased; that about the middle of August, many of the inhabitants returned to their habitations in this district; that they have been there about a fortnight, and no sickness had recurred, notwithstanding no alteration has been made in the condition of this district, except six loads of sand put into one dock, merely because two privies were over it, but which were not, in any manner, remarkably filthy; that many of the sick had been on board of the suspected vessels; and finally, that they had been much affected by the extreme offensiveness of the bilge-water of these vessels.

“ From the foregoing premises, I think we may fairly infer, that the fever was the Yellow or Malignant Fever, and that it had its origin, or stood, somehow or other, connected with one or all three of the vessels above-mentioned. This is, at least, my opinion, decidedly; and not only of the fever of this year, but in each epidemic Yellow Fever in this town, I think I have the most unequivocal evidence of its importation; and even in almost every sporadic case, I have been able to trace a connection with a source of foreign origin, either at the time, or perhaps, by knowledge of it obtained a long time after.

“ Two such instances have come to my knowledge lately.

“ Now, notwithstanding my belief that the conta-

gion is imported, I think it proper to observe, that I also believe, that it requires some peculiar, appropriate, and to me, inexplicable condition in our atmosphere, to render it capable of propagation, either as a medium, through which the contagion may be spread, or by combining with it, and thus rendering it active. It is like tinder fitted to receive a spark of fire, and as far as this appropriate state of air extends, when saturated or contaminated with the foreign or contagious principle, so far is it capable of communicating the disease to those who inhale it, and are predisposed to it: and I am led to this conclusion from the following circumstances. The disease, I believe, generally appears first as an epidemic, or in its propagating state, near to, or about wharves and docks, and extends its influence gradually and progressively, so that if a patient ever so bad, and even dies with it, is carried into the country, or, in the beginning of the epidemic, into a distant part of the town or city, remote from the water, he does not convey the disorder, even to those in frequent contact with him; at least, this has been the case with us, and I believe is generally admitted as fact in other places.

“ Now, if this fever possessed the common character of other contagious diseases, it would like them, in all situations, and in all seasons, be more or less capable of propagating its kind under these different circumstances.

“ What this condition of the atmosphere is, that by assimilating with the contagion, or serving as a medium to it, which renders it so destructive to the human race, I cannot pretend to say, or even conjecture: but that it is not the object of our senses, I am fully convinced, from long and much observation. The inference, however, from this hypothesis is obvious, if we cannot comprehend the condition of our

atmosphere, which renders the disease capable of propagation, then we should be the more careful to prevent the foreign principle from being brought into contact with the domestic one. This, however, is a task truly peculiar, considering the thousand different ways by running articles from vessels, by clothes sent from them, by persons visiting them secretly, &c. &c. by which it may be conveyed.

“ Before I quit this subject, I must beg leave to call the attention of the Board of Health to one circumstance attending Yellow Fever; a circumstance of the utmost importance in investigating its nature, and so obvious, that one would think, that the meanest capacity would comprehend it, and which, at the same time, is overlooked by many eminent and ingenious men. It is this: that the first frost, or what is called black frost, destroys the real Yellow Fever radically, although it may, at this time, have extended its influence ever so far; whereas the Bilious and other fevers of our country, which are said to be only grades of the Yellow Fever, are often extended into, and through the winter and spring. Now it appears to me absurd to suppose, that a cause which is capable to destroy the highest grade of a fever, should be unable to produce the same effect upon the lower degrees of it; but as we every year see, that frost radically destroys the Yellow Fever at once, while our other fevers continue through the winter, in many cases, the inference is plain and irresistible, that there is a specific difference between them, although there may be some symptoms in common to them all.

“ With respect to a retrospective view of former years, I must beg leave to refer the Board of Health to some documents I am about to send on to Dr. Hosack upon this subject, and which I shall request him to give them the perusal of, if they should deem them of sufficient consequence.

" You will please to tender my respects to the Board of Health.

I have the honour to be,
With much respect,
Your obedient servant,
PARDON BOWEN.

Providence, August 28th, 1805."

" September 10th, 1805.

" SIR,

" I have been under the necessity to withhold my communication until this time, as I was informed that one of the circumstances mentioned therein, was not correct, and the persons capable of giving correct information were absent. I have this moment seen one of them, and am now able to say, that instead of the brig *Juno's* having one or two persons sick on the homeward bound passage, she had only one man sick or unwell several days in the Havanna, but was able to do his duty home. This vessel was also at New-Providence during her voyage.

" No person is or has been sick in the district, where our fever prevailed, and the inhabitants are all returned, with but a few exceptions.

Yours with esteem, &c.

PARDON BOWEN."

The next opinion, which we have concerning the origin of yellow fever is contained in a letter from Dr. John Stewart, of Grenada, to Dr. David Hosack, of this city. In order to understand this, it may be proper to observe, that Dr. Hosack about the middle of November last, published a statement of his official conduct with the Board of Health; but as his letters to that body have been already published in the preceding part of this work, it will be unnecessary here to repeat them. It will, therefore, on-

ly be needful to give the other parts of that gentleman's statement.

To the Editor of the Morning Chronicle.

" SIR,

" As every thing relating to Yellow Fever seems to have become so very unpleasant to many of your readers, it is with regret that I feel myself compelled to occupy a column of your paper on that subject ; but to pass over in silence, the misrepresentations, which have been circulated relative to my professional conduct during the late epidemic, would not only be injustice to myself, but inconsistent with that respect, which I consider due to public opinion. As soon, therefore, as I could procure the necessary documents from the Secretary of the Board of Health, I prepared the following concise, but I trust satisfactory statement, for the inspection of my fellow-citizens.

" Of the various charges circulated against me the first is, that I denied the existence of the yellow-fever after it had appeared in different parts of our city, in consequence of which many persons were induced to remain longer than they otherwise would have done, and some of whom actually fell victims to their misplaced confidence. The following documents will, I trust, shew that this *new sort* of calumny (for till this year I have been pointed at by the same persons as an alarmist) is totally unfounded. It is necessary previously to remind the reader that the Board of Health published their first report of the existence of the epidemic on Friday the 6th September. On the 5th of August I addressed a letter to the Board, of which the following is an extract :

" On Tuesday morning, *July 30*, about 9 o'clock, Dr. Riddle, for the first time, requested me to visit

with him Mr. Dougherty, in Water street, a clerk in the employ of Messrs. Moore and Storey, which I did immediately."

"The Doctor informed me that this patient had been sick since the preceding Wednesday, the 24th inst" !

"Upon retiring (after having examined the state of the patient and heard the Doctor's history of the case) I did not hesitate to express my belief of the nature of the disease."

"As the patient was near his dissolution I immediately made a report to the Mayor of the case."

Dr. Hosack at the end of his letter of the 6th of September, makes the following remarks. "I have to observe, that at the very time when the above cases were shewn to me, as the only ones that had been reported, I have since discovered from an inspection of the minutes of the board, that there had been reported five more, neither of which was shewn to me by the Secretary. To the above letter the calumny attributing to me a denial of the existence of the disease, is to be ascribed. I shall only add, that the five cases shewn me as Yellow Fever, but which I denied to be such, all terminated as will be found by examining the records of the board in recoveries. The other five I did not see."

The above seems to convey a reflection upon me, as not having performed a particular duty enjoined upon me by the Board. It is well known, however, to several of the members, that the circumstances under which I at that time acted, were peculiarly difficult and perplexing, several physicians having expressly declared, that they would deem it an insult, if any medical gentleman should be introduced to see

a patient of theirs, without their consent. An impartial public will, I am persuaded, be fully satisfied, that upon an occasion of this nature, it was proper for me to endeavour, by every means in my power, to prevent discord or dissention taking place amongst professional characters.

The following part of Dr. Hosack's statement, not having appeared, in what I have already published relative to that gentleman, a regard to justice renders it necessary, that it should be republished here.

"It has been said, that a view to the *compensation* offered by the Board of Health, was the motive of the unworthy conduct with which I have been charged.

"The following letter from the Mayor, will, I trust, afford a sufficient reply to this calumny.

"14th November, 1805.

"SIR,

"Agreeably to your request, I have directed the Secretary of the Board of Health, to furnish you with copies of your reports, which I presume you have received before this time.

"It is but an act of justice to you to declare, that *previous* to your acting under the request of the Board, you explicitly assured me that you would receive no compensation.

I have the honour to be,

Your most obedient servant,

DE WITT CLINTON.

DR. HOSACK."

"It has been said that I have departed from the opinions I had heretofore entertained of the origin

of the yellow fever, and that as in the present year no *particular vessel* had been charged with the introduction of it, we were compelled to acknowledge its domestic origin. Such too appears to be the object and tenor of the last very extraordinary letter published by the Health-Officer. In reply to this misrepresentation of my opinion, I have only to remark, that if I had before entertained any doubt of the origin of this calamity, the circumstances attending its appearance in the present season, would alone have satisfied me (as it has some others who have had opportunities of watching its early progress) that it is not the product of our own soil or climate, but is always introduced from *abroad*. The *intercourse* I might, perhaps, say the *unlimited intercourse*, which has existed between the Quarantine ground and this city, by night as well as by day, *sufficiently accounts for the origin of the pestilence of the last season*.

“ It is unnecessary for me here to go into details; the clue to the investigation of the facts upon this subject, is in the possession of the proper authority, and I trust it will be pursued with the attention it merits, and the importance of the enquiry demands; but I will venture to predict, that unless our Legislature enact a law that will make it necessary to quarantine the *captains* of vessels, the *supercargo*, the *seamen*, the *passengers*, their *bedding*, *cloathing*, &c. as well as the *vessels* themselves, we shall never be secure from danger, and that the now growing commerce of our city will be sacrificed to the repetition of this terrible calamity.

“ While I thus recommend a more strict and efficient Quarantine Law, to prevent the introduction of *contagion* from *abroad*, I hope it will not be thought that I disregard the attention bestowed by our vigilant police in preserving *cleanliness at home*. On the contrary, it is conceded, that the Yellow Fever,

like other contagious diseases, is never so readily propagated in a *pure* as in an *impure* atmosphere; perhaps I may go further and say, that the Yellow Fever, more than any other contagious disease that we know of, requires an impure air, as its conductor. But that the *filth of our streets, our docks, or new made grounds, grave yards or privies*, have ever generated *this species* of fever, I cannot believe. I should as readily ascribe the origin of *Small-pox, or Measles, or Plague*, to the *dirt of our gutters*, as to trace the Yellow Fever to putrid animal or vegetable matter; and that I am not alone in this opinion, a vast body of testimony might be adduced, but I shall content myself with the following extract from an interesting letter, which I received a few days ago from Dr. John Stuart, an eminent physician, from the island of Grenada, who has lately visited this city.

“ This gentleman has practised medicine 24 years in that island, resided there in 1793, when the Yellow Fever was introduced from Boullam, by the ship Hankey, and which in the same year, communicated that disease to Philadelphia. The celebrity of Dr. Stuart, as an accomplished scholar and physician, entitles his observations to the particular attention of our citizens.

I am, Sir, with regard, yours,
DAVID HOSACK.”

“ *New-York, Nov. 12, 1805.*

“ DEAR SIR,

“ I have received your favour of this date, desiring information concerning the fever which appeared, and proved so fatal, in Grenada, in March, 1793. I feel much disposed to comply with your request, but regret that my time will not allow me to do so in a manner satisfactory to myself; at all events, I hope you will make allowance for any inaccuracy I may com-

mit, in referring to a circumstance, which took place so long as 12 years ago, especially as I am possessed of no memorandum respecting the disease, all my papers having been destroyed in the insurrection which occurred in that island, in 1795.

“ It may be necessary to premise, that I had been engaged in an extensive practice in the quarters of St. Andrews and St. Patricks, for 19 years previous to the period referred to. My place of residence was on the east side of the island, and on the confines of those two parishes, about 24 miles from St. George, the capital, and upwards of four miles from Grenville bay, the second harbour in the colony—The tract of country between my abode and the latter, is flat, and the shore low and swampy; it is consequently extremely unhealthy in the fall of the year; I had become, of course, well acquainted with Tertian Fever under its various forms, of intermittent, remittent, and continued types. It is, however, worthy of remark, that I do not recollect an instance of an epidemic occurring among the white inhabitants in any part of the island, from January to July or August, previous to the year 1793.

“ My first acquaintance with the fever in question was as follows: In the month of March of that year I went one day on board the ship Adventure, then lying in Grenville harbour, to visit the carpenter, at that time under my charge for a gun shot wound in his hand. While there, captain Remington arrived from St. George's by sea; he had come round in a drogher, and had had heavy squalls, with rain, in his passage to windward. He then complained of being feverish, and seemed low spirited, he had heat of skin, his pulse full and under one hundred, headache, pain in his back and limbs, and over his whole body: these symptoms I imputed to cold caught in his passage up, and accordingly took eight ounces

of blood from him, which unexpectedly neither exhibited the bussy coat, nor the coagulum any degree of contraction, nor consequent separation of serum. He took an emetic of Ipecacuanha in the evening, and a dose of Glauber Salts the following morning. During three days I continued to visit him, his pulse did not exceed one hundred, nor was the heat of his skin considerable; he took occasionally small doses of Antimonial Wine, with the addition of Laudanum at bed time, and made free use of tepid drinks.... At the end of that time, I was under the necessity of putting him in charge of a neighbouring practitioner, having a call to the other side of the island. On leaving him, I certainly did not entertain any idea of his being in danger; I was, however, forcibly struck with, and could not well account for an uncommon degree of despondency of mind, that was then present, and it was not possible to remove the impression that he was to die; nor was I the less surprised, on going to Grenville a few days thereafter to be told of his death, and more especially to hear of that event having been preceded by hæmorrhage from his nose, stomach, mouth and urinary bladder. On this occasion, while in conversation with some gentlemen on the fate of this unfortunate man, I could not help noticing the malignity of the case, and the difference in the train of symptoms from what I had ever witnessed to take place in the worst case of our endemic fever. But a few minutes had elapsed, when a gentleman arrived from St. George's; I had no sooner mentioned capt. R's death to him, and my surprise thereat, when he instantly replied it was known to him, for that capt. R. had eat and slept on board the ship Hankey, during several days that he was in town. This was the first notice I had of such a vessel being in the colony, and I therefore anxiously requested he would explain himself: this he did, by saying that the Hankey, capt. Cox, had arrived some time before

after carrying a number of settlers from England to the coast of Africa, where she had remained for some months, and that during her stay the greater part of those unfortunate people had been carried off by fever, and concluded by saying, that there was, at that time, a cursed infection lurking on board of her. That the mate of the ship Baillies had died, or was dying, and several other seamen were very ill when he left town. The melancholy scene that afterwards followed at St. George's in '93....'94, is well and amply described by my respectable friend Dr. Chisholm, in his well known work, on West-India diseases.

“ As to the *character* of this fever, my experience has fully satisfied me that it was specifically distinct from every form of the Indigenous Bilious Remittent, which I had ever observed. *Because* it appeared at a season of the year which I had always found healthy, during a period of nineteen years I had resided in the colony. *Because* it did not particularly appear in those situations where bilious remittent fever usually prevailed during the unhealthy season of the year. *Because* there was an evident difference in the character and type of the two diseases ; there was a greater despondency of mind in this fever, the eyes were more muddy and inflamed, there was commonly a deep seated pain in the eye-sockets, the motion of the eye-balls was attended with uneasiness ; the pain in the back and limbs was greater than in bilious fever ; the vomiting was not of so violent and straining a nature, nor was there such evacuations of bilious matter. The black vomit* generally occurred at an early period ; the yellowness was of a dingy hue, not of the real icteric tinge accompanying cases of bilious fever. The delirium was in many instances of a peculiar nature, and much resembling a state of intoxication ;

* Which I consider as one of the characteristics of this disease.

hæmorrhage was more frequent, particularly by urine, and from the stomach and intestines. Patients, on several occasions, made exertions not long before death, that I *never* witnessed in bilious fever. I have known a patient to get up, dress himself, and walk about his chamber, a very short time before his death. Medical practitioners, before being well acquainted with the deceitful nature of the disease, not unfrequently declared their patients out of danger, when the fatal issue took place an hour or two after their departure. *Because* I never knew this fever terminate within a few weeks in intermittent, as tertian, remittent or bilious fever commonly does. *Because* the degree of weakness produced by the fever is greater, and the recovery of flesh and strength more gradual and slow in this than bilious fever..... *Because* I did not find the same mode of treatment successful in both cases of fever; for the early, bold and free use of bark, which I have found very generally to answer in bilious fever, seemed to aggravate this fever, and to hasten the fatal issue.

“That this fever was contagious, I concluded from the manner in which it broke out and spread. It first appeared in two or three vessels that had a communication with the Hankey, and from those sources it gradually extended itself to other vessels in the harbour, but not to all; for, where attention was paid to prohibit communication with infected ships, such vessels escaped. After some time it got on shore, both into town and in the garrison. There is also reason to think that it was carried from thence to the adjoining islands, as it appeared at most of those to windward, within two months of its breaking out at Grenada; and some time thereafter, it shewed itself at Jamaica, and ultimately I believe in September at Philadelphia.

“Its contagious nature also appeared *from* many

instances of men in 1793 and 1794, going to St. George's on business, and being attacked a few days after their return to the country with this fever, to several of whom it proved fatal; but I must observe that I met with no instance in the country of the disease being communicated to others, either visitors or attendants. It is indeed true that every attention was paid to keep the chambers of the sick well aired; their linen frequently shifted, and when a fatal issue took place, every article of wearing apparel and bedding was commonly destroyed.

“ *From* knowing several instances of young men who got wounded in 1795 and 1796, having been sent for convenience and proper attendance to town, and during their cure were attacked by this cruel disease, and on some occasions fell a sacrifice thereto.

“ *From* instances occurring, of people expressing a consciousness of the time, when they received the contagion, while visiting acquaintances labouring under the disease.

“ *From* a thorough belief in the minds of all the medical gentlemen in Grenada, who witnessed the disease, that it was so; let it be observed, however, that one of the most respectable practitioners in St. George's, and a particular acquaintance of my own, would not allow, *at first*, that it was contagious. And lastly, *from* a full conviction that I, as well as some other medical gentlemen, contracted the disease in our attendance on the sick.

“ Respecting the propagation of this fever, I am decidedly of opinion, that it was occasioned by visiting infected apartments, or by the near approach to, or contact with people labouring under it. There is every probability also, that the infection was

brought to Grenada by the Hankey;* but what its nature was, whether it originated on board in consequence of the number of sick crowded together, while labouring under the endemic of a warm climate, and that in a sultry, moist atmosphere, is a question I do not take upon myself to answer.

“That vegetable and animal matter, in a state of putrefaction, does produce disease, is not to be denied; but that vegetable matter only in a state of corruption, is on many occasions harmless, is evident, from the offensive heaps of cotton-seed, and the pulpy covering of the coffee berry, which are daily to be met with in Demarara, without being considered as a cause of fever; nor should this circumstance be omitted, that when fever does prevail, it is at a season, when those causes do not act powerfully.

Yours, &c.

JOHN STUART.

Dr. DAVID HOSACK.”

The next opinion which I shall adduce, with respect to the origin of Yellow Fever in this country, is that of the celebrated French traveller, C. F. Volney, in his very interesting work, entitled, “A View of the Climate and Soil of the United States of America.” In page 297, of the London edition, printed in 1804, he begins thus:

OF THE YELLOW FEVER.

“The disease, too well known by the name of Yellow Fever, grows more and more common in the United States, and I shall speak of it, at some length, on account of the importance of the subject. Besides, as I was originally intended for the practice of

* It is important to note here, that when the Hankey returned to Great-Britain, she was immediately ordered by the Board of Health to be burnt, which was done accordingly.

physic, the studies of my younger days enabled me to reason upon this disorder with professional men, and discuss the various opinions entertained concerning it, though with the diffidence becoming one who has only had a glimpse of the extensive career. Had I not been thus far qualified, I should have refrained from meddling with the subject ; for to talk of physic without having studied the art, is like discoursing of astronomy, mechanics, or military skill, without any preliminary information."

From the above introduction, it will appear pretty evident, that Mr. Volney was well qualified to make remarks upon the nature of the diseases, which were most prevalent, in those countries, through which he travelled, but as want of room compels me to leave out his account of the different stages of the yellow fever, the different modes of cure, &c. I shall content myself, at present, by giving his opinion concerning the origin of this cruel disorder. After mentioning a schism amongst physicians, which he says, had been particularly notorious, he goes on thus, "Some have pretended, that it (the Yellow Fever) was always imported from abroad, particularly from the West-Indies ; and that it was not, and could not, in any case, be the native produce of the United States. In proof of their opinion, they have advanced the non-existence or extreme rarity of epidemics before the peace of 1783 ; and they have ascribed their frequency since that period to their more active and more direct commercial intercourse with the West-India islands and the Spanish main. They have even charged certain vessels, by name, with having imported the *contagion*, the existence of which they have supposed in a degree little inferior to the Plague."

"Other physicians, on the contrary, have maintained, that from its very nature the yellow fever might

arise in the United States, as often as its disposing and occasional causes of time and place occurred together; and, in the first place, tracing to their source, the pretended facts of importation, they have demonstrated by the most positive testimonies, not only that the vessels accused of having brought with them the disease, or its germes, did no such thing, but that it did not appear on board of them, till after they had moored at the quays, and in the vicinity of the places, which were noted at New-York and Philadelphia, as the foci of the evil; with this additional peculiarity, that it had even seized those of the crews first, who had had the most immediate contact with the infectious place;* then, collecting all the circumstances of the disease, with regard to place, season, and the constitutions of the sick, they have demonstrated,

“ 1st. That it attacked populous cities, in preference to villages and country situations.

“ 2dly. That, in populous cities, as New-York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, it affected constantly and almost exclusively, the low parts, full of filth and stagnant water; streets not ventilated, not paved, and dirty; and particularly the quays and their vicinity, covered with nastiness to an inconceivable degree; where every day, at low water, the shores are

* Thus the whole city of Philadelphia was persuaded, that the epidemic of 1793, came from the island of Grenada, to which they said it had been brought from Bulam, on the coast of Africa, by the ship Hankey. An English physician, who happened to be at that island, gave great weight to the authenticity of this second part of the story in a pamphlet he wrote; yet three years after, Mr. Noah Webster and Dr. E. H. Smith published, at New-York, a journal of the whole voyage of the Hankey, drawn up by one of the most respectable eye-witnesses, which contains such a great body of proof, and bears so obvious a stamp of candour and veracity, that the reader is convinced, as well as Mr. Webster and Dr. Smith, of Dr. Chisholm's having been completely deceived. In like manner, Dr. Richard Bayley proves, in his excellent report to the Governor of New-York, that the accusations brought against the vessels Antoinette and Patty, were vulgar rumours, completely destitute of foundation, &c. See the New-York Medical Repository, 2d edition, vol. I. page 459 and 121.

exposed to an ardent sun. At New-York, for instance, Dr. R. Bayley has calculated, that to fill up the dock, between the Whitehall and Exchange-slip, twenty-four loads of every kind of filth, including even carcasses of horses, dogs, &c. were used in one year; whence it followed, that in July, the stench was so powerful in the neighbourhood, as to excite nausea and vomiting, the precursors of the epidemic, especially in the evenings.

“ 3dly. That with regard to the course of the season, it appeared only in July, August and September; that is at the period when the obstinate and intense heats of 24° or 25° Reaumur, (86° or 88° F.) excite an evident fermentation in these heaps of animal and vegetable matter, and disengage from them miasmata, which every thing indicates to be the destroyers of health. These physicians have remarked, that the epidemic redoubled its fury, if the weather were damp, or the wind south-east, or even north-east: that it was diminished by the cold and dryness of the north-west wind, and even by the copious rains of the south-west; that, in the difference of years, the fever selected those, in which the heats of summer were accompanied with most dryness and calm in the air; no doubt, because then the accumulated miasmata exercised a more powerful action on the lungs, and, by their means, on the whole circulation.

“ Lastly. They have demonstrated, that in the choice of subjects, it attacks in preference, the badly fed and dirty inhabitants of the suburbs and quarters abounding in filth and marshes; workmen exposed to the heat of fire, as smiths and jewellers, and those who were addicted to spirituous liquors, observing, that frequently the Yellow Fever has immediately succeeded a fit of drunkenness; that it attacks also more particularly, people of full, sanguine, robust habits, adults of warm constitutions, foreigners

from northern climates, blacks, and men debilitated by libertinism: that it spares foreigners from hot countries, people temperate in drinking, and more particularly in eating; and those who are in easy circumstances, cleanly in their persons, living more on vegetable than animal food, and residing in paved, airy streets, and high situations.

“Farther, following the malady even to the places pointed out as the cradle and focus of its origin, they have demonstrated, that even in the West-Indies, in the islands of Grenada, Martinico, St. Domingo and Jamaica, the Yellow Fever arose only where the same circumstances were combined; that it shews itself only in certain places, and particular years, exactly similar to the cases mentioned in the United States; that places, where there is neither marsh nor filth, as St. Kitt’s, St. Vincent’s, Tobago, and Barbadoes, are constantly healthy; that, if the fever has appeared at St. George’s, in Grenada, and at Fort Royal, in Martinico, it was at the careenage, near noisome marshes, and at a time when a superabundance of vessels, and the extreme dryness of the season, had contributed to the developement of ferments; that if its appearance in the cities of New-York, Baltimore and Philadelphia, had been owing only to importation, it must have been brought to them habitually, from Norfolk and Charleston, with which they had an extensive intercourse, and where the combination of all the causes above-mentioned, rendered it almost endemic every summer.

“The facts, on which these conclusions are founded, are dispersed through different tracts, published from 1795 and 1798, the time when I left the United States.*

* See the report of the physicians of Philadelphia to the Governor of Pennsylvania; that of Dr. Richard Bayley to the Go-

“ It is impossible to read them attentively, and not be struck with the constant harmony and correspondence, that every where exist between the primary and secondary causes, mediate or immediate, the concomitant circumstances and the effects, either isolated or combined into a series. Every where we find the fever originating and increasing in the compound ratio of the heat of the atmosphere, of its continued dryness or temporary humidity, of its calmness, of the vicinity and extent of marshes, and especially of the accumulated heaps of animal matter, forming a focus of putrefaction, and deleterious effluvia. We even see the fevers are more or less violent according to the intensity of all these causes : if there be only excess of heat, without masses of putrefaction, and without marshes, they are simply of the inflammatory kind, that is scarlatina and bilious fever, without any complication of malignity ; if there be muddy marshes, unimpregnated with animal matter the miasmata occasion putrid sore throats, the severe bilious vomitings called *cholera morbus*, and destructive dysenteries : if to these be added accumulations of putrefying animal matter, the disorder becomes complicated with symptoms, that always denote the nervous system to be affected by a kind of poison : when the evil is at its *maximum*, all the other degrees have a tendency to assimilate with it ; whence it follows, that fevers may be graduated and measured by the degrees of the thermometer, and intensity of putrid miasmata ; and that in the course of the same summer and autumn, we may follow

vernor of New-York ; the Inquiry into the Cause of the Prevalence of the Yellow Fever in New-York, by Dr. Valentine Seaman ; Dr. Rush's Medical Inquiries and Observations : a letter from Dr. G. Davidson, on the appearance of the Yellow Fever at Martinico in 1796 : Origin of the Pestilential Fever that prevailed in the Island of Grenada in 1793 and 1794 by Dr. E. H. Smith ; an Inaugural Dissertation on the Bilious Fever and Dysentery that prevailed in Sheffield, in Massachusetts, by Dr. W. Buel ; and lastly the very interesting Collection of Letters on the Fevers of various places, published by Noah Webster.

their progress and affinity from simple synocha, to the plague, which is but the last degree in the scale, and the maximum of these causes united. In such a state of things it is evident, that every country where heat and centres of putrefaction are united to a sufficient degree, will be capable of engendering all these diseases. I had already imagined, that I had observed in Egypt and Syria, a heat of 24° of Reaumur, (86° F.) to be the point at which a febrile disposition and commotion of a destructive kind, denoted by the term of *malignant fever* took place in the blood; and it was with surprise and pleasure I saw the same opinion had been suggested to Dr. G. Davidson at Martinico, by similar facts, and that he thought with me, that setting out from this degree, equal to 86° of Fahrenheit, the characters of malignity and contagion are exalted as the heat rises, till at length they form the plague.

“Through the means of the writings and facts I have quoted, these principles have acquired such a degree of evidence in the United States, that a very great majority of the physicians of New-York, Boston, Baltimore, Norfolk and Charleston, have joined in declaring, that the yellow fever might, and actually did arise in the United States. The college of Philadelphia alone has persisted in affirming its importation, and this opinion, which has in its favour the advantage of precedence in the minds of the common people, will long have partizans in every class, from several very potent motives: as

“1st. Because it flatters national vanity, and many persons want only a pretext, to authorise their own.

“2d. Because it favours the interest of jobbers in the sale of lands, and the emigration of foreigners to a country which enjoys the privilege of not engen-

dering fever. It is true that if it be so apt to receive it by inoculation, the case is almost as bad ; but the partizans of its importation cannot take a joke, and I have found many Americans, who were seriously put out of temper by contradiction on this subject.

“ 3d. Because those physicians who first established this belief, are so engaged by self-love or supposed conviction, that they have almost prohibited to themselves the least modification of it ; and because they have made the government take measures so decisive, and so burdensome to commerce, that if they were now found to have been adopted without reason, the authors would infallibly occur ill-will. Yet I consider those offices of health or lazarettos in the ports of the United States, as a wise institution, particularly in the American trade up the Mediterranean, and in the Levant.

“ 4thly and lastly, because the contagious and almost pestilential character, which is joined with the prejudice of importation, very happily excuses the want of success of those, whose patients very seldom recover.

“ While I adopt the opinion of those physicians who consider the yellow fever as an indigenous product of the United States, I am far from inculcating the intention of those, who support the opposite side of the question ; but I consider the doctrine of importation as dangerous and imprudent, both on account of the dogmatic and intolerant tone it has assumed so far as to attack domestic liberty and security, and to compromise the government ; and because, in urging extravagant external measures, it has rendered men indifferent to internal steps of far greater necessity, that flow directly from the opposite opinion.

“ As to the question of its contagious character, I can neither admit the absolute negative mentioned by some physicians, nor the general and constant case supposed by several others. The latter is controverted by too many incontestible facts; and the former, that is, the negative, seems to me inconsistent with the very origin of the disorder; for if marsh miasmata and putrid matter possess the property of exciting it, surely *a fortiori*, the miasmata of an infected human body must have this quality, their affinity with the living fluids being much greater. Accordingly, it was remarked in Philadelphia in 1797, that several families, in returning from the country to their houses in town, in which some persons had been sick or died, without taking care to purify it from infection, were immediately seized with the disorder, notwithstanding the weather was cold, and it had disappeared. At Norfolk, it was still a more general remark, that they who had removed from the city, were more exposed to catch the disorder, than they who remained constantly in its atmosphere; and this case corresponds with that of strangers, particularly from the north, who were observed at Philadelphia, New-York, &c. to be particularly liable to attack.

“ The men of theory endeavour to explain this singularity by saying, that strangers are more susceptible of the fever in consequence of a superabundance of oxygen being infused into the blood, by the purer air of Europe or the country. But not to mention that this superabundance of oxygen is merely hypothetical, the ideas we have of oxygen gas, essentially conducive to health, are so contrary to it, that we have a right to demand stronger proofs; and to assert, as they do, that oxygen is more abundant in low situations than high, is a new supposition in chemistry, so much the less admirable, as the most learned chemists in Europe consider the contrary as

proved. It is not oxygen, that their experiments have shewn them to be disengaged from marshes and putrid matters, but carbon, hydrogen and azot: it even appears, that the combination of the first two of these gasses, has the specific property of generating intermitting and remitting fevers, and that these do not become putrid, but by the addition of azot to the compound.

“Farther study, no doubt, will unfold the action of all these morbid gasses; at present the best indications of cure appear to lie: 1st. to counteract the inflammation, which is the first stage of the disorder, by deluents and refrigerants; perhaps baths of such a temperature as to excite a slight shivering* would be among the most efficacious employed on the first suspicion of the disorder and continued for eight or ten hours. I leave it to the masters of the art to decide on very cold baths even near the freezing point, from which some American physicians assert, they have obtained good effects: it is certain, that in cases of phrenzy, they have sometimes effected astonishing cures; but the period of their application has a decisive influence, since their effect in the inflammatory stage is very different from what it would be in the succeeding. The remedies employed against aphixy too may be of use, since deleterious gasses appear to act a part in the disease. The essential object is, to prevent inflammation from increasing to such a degree, as to decompose the fluids; for in this case, nothing can prevent the disorder from running thro’ all its three stages. Accordingly, the first few hours are decisive, and require all the celerity possible: and in them, taking away blood in small quantities, may be of great utility. An all powerful preserva-

* Of 10° or 15° (55° or 60° F.) according to the feelings of the patient.

tive is the most rigid abstinence,* with aqueous drinks, as soon as a sensation of heaviness is felt, with lassitude and loss of appetite; and it must be continued strictly two or three days, till the calls of hunger return, and both mind and body resume their wonted alacrity.

“ With regard to general preservatives applicable to the cities of the United States, these depend on the central government, and consist,

“ 1st. In regulating the strictness of quarantine, as well authenticated cases of disorders imported in ships may require. Vessels from the Mediterranean demand most attention.

“ 2d. In prohibiting the abuse of the pretended right of property, and of the liberty of individuals, who, in the vicinity, nay even in the heart of great cities, fill up low grounds with filth and even carrion. The Americans boast of their cleanliness; but I can assert, that the quays of New-York and Philadelphia, with certain parts of the suburbs, exceed, in public and private nastiness, any thing I ever beheld in Turkey, where the air has the advantage of salubrious dryness.

“ 3d. In establishing regulations of police, hitherto unadopted or neglected, for the paving of the streets, suburbs, and even the hearts of cities. It has been observed in Europe, that the great epidemics of Paris, Lyons, London, and other very populous cities, have ceased since the establishment of a general and regular pavement.

“ 4th. In preventing any stagnant water, accu-

* See an excellent paper on the Effects of Abstinence at the approach of Acute Diseases, by Edward Miller, M. D. New-York Medical Repository, 2d edition, vol. I. page 187.

mulation of putrid matters; in removing from the heart of cities, extensive burying-grounds, the pestilential use of which is generally retained with superstitious respect. Philadelphia* has four vast cemeteries in the handsomest quarter of the city, of the smell of which, I was very sensible in the summer, and it has not one walk planted with salutary verdure.

"5th. In obliging the cities to wall and pave their privies, which, in their present state, communicate so directly, through a sandy soil, with the wells, equally left destitute of walls, that on the melting of the snow in winter, and during the droughts of summer, the water in both may be seen to assume the same level. It is so true, that the water drank in the lower parts of the city, (Philadelphia) receives filtrations from the cemeteries and privies, that in Front-street, I found the water in my decanters become *ropy*, if kept three days in the month of May, and at length acquire a cadaverous stench.

"Lastly, the government, while it directs the at-

* If in the city of Philadelphia, there be four vast cemeteries in the handsomest quarter of the city, there are of cemeteries of one sort or another in the thick settled part of the city of New-York not less than eighteen. In a letter which was written to me, November 24th, 1798, by Dr. Samuel L. Mitchill, who is, at present, one of our representatives in the senate of the United States, and which was afterwards published in my "account of the Malignant Fever" of that year, he makes this observation. "It deserves to be mentioned, that human carcasses, buried and accumulated for a long series of years, have poisoned the air in many parts of christendom, and that by the concurrence of both municipal and spiritual authority, the practice of interring in cities and church yards has been absolutely prohibited in many parts of Italy, on account of the horrid mischiefs occasioned thereby. Although the evil has not grown to such an alarming height amongst ourselves at this day, yet it is certainly worthy of consideration whether it would not be better at once for christians to discard the superstition, which leads to this practice, and imitate the Jews and Mahometans in conveying their carrion entirely out of town, and burying it in places remote from the habitations of the living. A regard for the preservation of posterity, as well as our own present and personal security, imposes on us the adoption of some decisive measures upon this head."

tention of the inhabitants of the United States to these objects of domestic concern, should promote their being properly instructed, with respect to one of the most essential and most radical causes of all their diseases; I mean their dietic regimen, which, in consequence of their origin, they have derived from the English and Germans. I will venture to say, that if a prize were proposed for the scheme of a regimen most calculated to injure the stomach, the teeth, and the health in general, no better could be invented than that of the Americans. In the morning, at breakfast, they deluge their stomachs with a quart of hot water, impregnated with tea or so slightly with coffee, that it is merely coloured water; and they swallow, almost without chewing, hot bread half baked, toast soaked in butter, cheese of the fattest kind, slices of salt or hung beef, ham, &c. all which are nearly insoluble. At dinner, they have boiled pastes, under the name of puddings, and the fattest are esteemed the most delicious; all their sauces, even for roast beef, are melted butter; their turnips and potatoes swim in hog's lard, butter or fat; under the name of pie or pumpkin, their pastry is nothing but a greasy paste, never sufficiently baked; to digest these vicious substances, they take tea almost instantly after dinner, making it so strong, that it is absolutely bitter to the taste; in which state it affects the nerves so powerfully, that even the English find it brings on a more obstinate restlessness than coffee. Supper again introduces salt meats or oysters; as Chateaux says, the whole day passes in heaping indigestions on one another; and to give tone to the poor relaxed and wearied stomach, they drink Madeira, rum, French brandy, gin, or malt spirits, which complete the ruin of the nervous system."

After some further observations respecting the diet of the Americans, much to the same purport with the preceding, our author goes on thus: "It is so

true, that their regimen is one of the grand predisposing causes of disease, and of the Yellow Fever, that, in the height of the epidemics, a single case never appeared within the confines of the prison at Philadelphia;* and this evidently because the system of diet there, is regulated by a scale of temperature, affording no opportunity for overloading the stomach, and consequently, for a depravation of the fluids. The abuse of spirituous liquors, in particular, is totally banished from this admirable establishment."

* It is remarkable, that during the different seasons, in which the city of New-York has been afflicted with Pestilential Fever, the ALMS House, Debtors' Apartment, Bridewell and State Prison have almost been totally exempt from that calamity; and that when any solitary case of such fever has occurred in either of these buildings, it does not appear even in a single instance, that the disease has been communicated from one to another. NOTE OF THE EDITOR.

CHAPTER VI.

OF THE SITUATION OF THE CONVICTS IN THE STATE-PRISON,
WITH RESPECT TO HEALTH, DURING THE LAST SUMMER.

UPON this subject, it is impossible for me to advance any thing more satisfactory than the following official report of the physicians of that institution to the Board of Inspectors.

“ GENTLEMEN,

“ The undersigned, to whom was referred the request of the Board of Inspectors of the State-Prison, to be informed of the causes of the great expence of the Hospital Department in that Institution, during the present year, and of all such other things relative to the health of the convicts, as it may be important to communicate, beg leave to report :

“ That it appears from inspecting the books of the prison, that from the 19th of May, to the 25th of November, 391 persons were admitted into the Hospital, which is a greater number than has been formerly admitted, in the course of a year. The number of patients will therefore explain the corresponding increase of the expences of the Hospital.

“ In order to account satisfactorily for the remarkable augmentation of the number of the sick, it will be necessary to recollect the peculiarly morbid constitution of the atmosphere, which prevailed during the late summer and autumn, not only in the city of New-York, but in a great number of other parts of the state.

“ The effects of this condition of the atmosphere, were clearly manifested, not only in the appearance

of an unusually great number of cases of fever, which from the beginning of July till the middle of October, amounted to forty-three, but likewise in the great number of cases of dysentery, diarrhœa, cholera and colic, all of which have a near relation, and frequently arise from different modifications of the same cause.

“ There is proof also of the remarkably unhealthy state of the atmosphere, in the singular disposition to diseases, sometimes light and transient, as well as more severe, which existed throughout the months of July, August, September and October.

“ And whoever calls to mind the remarkable heat and drought of July and August, will have little hesitation in considering it as a remarkable season, and little difficulty in understanding how such a condition of atmosphere should be likely to convert into poison, all the filth and putrifying matters which may be collected in and about an institution, which, from the increased number of convicts, has become so populous and crowded.

“ This view of the subject is also confirmed by the occurrence of two cases of the malignant disease popularly called the *Yellow Fever*, in the month of August.

“ The first case, that of *Frederick Crater*, commenced at Bridewell on the 10th of August, with symptoms of bilious colic, which frequently precede the characteristic appearances of *Yellow Fever*, and he died on the fourth day of his disease, with decided marks of malignancy, and among the rest, with the appearances of *black vomit*.

“ The second case, to which we refer, was that of *William Webb*, who was seized with fever on the 12th of August, the day before the admission of

Crater, and who exhibited during his illness in the marked affection of his stomach, the discolouration of his skin, and in several other appearances, indubitable evidence of labouring under Yellow Fever.*

“It is true, that some hesitation and unwillingness were shewn at the time to pronounce decisively on the first case ; this arose from the early occurrence of the case, and an extreme disinclination to disturb the public tranquillity, by any suggestions of the existence of malignant fever. The events, however, which soon afterwards disclosed themselves in the city, left no room for doubt of the nature of these cases in the mind of any reasonable person.

“It deserved to be remarked, that the circumstances of the cases preclude all suspicion of their having infected one another, or of the disease having arisen from any foreign or contagious source.

“And it is interesting to observe, that the testimony in favour of the home-bred origin of our pestilen-

* At the time Webb was sick, there were five or six others, who were ill of Typhus Fever. These were all taken to the gallery of the chapel, in which situation they enjoyed an air so pure, that it could not be exceeded in many places of the island ; and in order that all fear of infection or contagion, from the case of Webb, might be removed from the minds of the convicts, he was placed in a small wooden building erected for the purpose, at a distance as far as practicable, from the prison ; but within the walls. He was visited, during his illness, by many physicians ; by most of whom, his case was pronounced to be *Yellow Fever*, whilst the others seemed to hesitate, with respect to the name, which should be given to the disease. All, however, agreed that his case was so very dangerous, as to leave very little, if any, hopes of his recovery. But owing to the unceasing attention of his physicians, he, at last, got better.

In adverting to the above circumstances, I should do injustice to my own feelings, as well as to the cause of truth, if I did not record to the honour of the Board of Inspectors and medical gentlemen of the State-Prison, that I was in no place, during the epidemic of the last or former years, where I found the sick treated with more tenderness, care and humanity, than in this institution ; to which I may, likewise, add, that as soon as they began to be in a state of convalescence, every necessary which it was supposed, could be conducive to their recovery, was liberally allowed to them. EDITOR.

tial disease receives no small degree of confirmation from the occurrence of these cases in a situation so entirely inaccessible to imported contagion.

"After this instance of the appearance of so many cases of fever in the State Prison, during the course of one season, and the malignant and alarming aspect of some of them, it would be improper, on the present occasion, to omit recommending to the board of inspectors, an incessant attention to all the means of cleanliness and ventilation in the prison, and as much indulgence of the prisoners in the benefit of exercise and fresh air as the nature and objects of the institution will allow.

"All which is respectfully submitted by the Board of Physicians.

RICHARD L. WALKER,
NICHOLAS I. QUACKENBOS.

New-York, December 4, 1805.

The Inspectors of the }
State Prison." }

CHAPTER VII.

DESULTORY OBSERVATIONS AND REFLECTIONS.

IN adverting to the different tables, which have been published, in the preceding part of this work, and in reflecting upon various occurrences which took place during the prevalence of the late epidemic, several observations present themselves to the mind, which, it is thought, may be deemed interesting to the public in general, particularly as they are not advanced for the purpose of supporting any one theory, but merely with a view to state facts, from which the intelligent reader can, at leisure, draw his own conclusions.

In the first place, the record of deaths kept at the Marine Hospital, and published in page 111 of this pamphlet, will shew, that six persons, viz. Christopher Hibbron, James Dougherty, Isabella Adams, Mrs. Pfifer, Andrew Stayley, and Daniel Young, who were sent from this city to the Marine Hospital, died of Malignant Fever, previous to any person being sent thither from any of the shipping. Two other persons, viz. William Aylesbury, and James Kirkwood, had, likewise, been sent down, ill of the same disease, previous to the 30th day of August, when Joshua Haines, of the snow Mehitabel, who was the first seaman infected with the fever this season, was lodged in the hospital, leaving an interval of forty-three days, between the time that Hibbron was sent down, viz. on the 18th of July, and the removal of Haines, on the 29th of August. Aylesbury and Kirkwood recovered.

2d. Mr. James Dougherty, who was removed from No. 128 Water-street, to the Marine Hospital, on the 30th of July, on which day, he likewise died,

was reported by all the physicians who saw him, to labour under the most decided symptoms of Yellow Fever. He was, at least, visited by six physicians: his two female cousins were constant in their attention towards him, during his illness. Messrs. Moore and Story, as also the servants of the house, frequently saw him, nor did several of his friends forsake him. My brother as well as myself, were, likewise, present at the time of his removal, and assisted in carrying him down stairs. It is remarkable, however, that no one of those who had intercourse with him, certainly not less than twenty in number, exclusive of the boatmen, who carried him down to the island, received the least infection or contagion.

3d. John Pelsue, who died at the house of his mother, No. 4 Church-street, on the 5th of September, is supposed by some, to have caught his sickness at the place where he worked, viz. at the office of the Daily Advertiser, lower end of Pine-street, while his mother imagines, that it proceeded from a cold which he had caught, in going down into a cistern, a few days previous to his indisposition. But whatever might have occasioned his disease, physicians who espouse the theory of importation, as well as those who believe in the doctrine of local origin, were equally positive in asserting that it was *Yellow Fever*. He too was visited by many physicians and others. His mother and sister were incessant in their attendance towards him, and a member of my family sat up with him the last night of his life. Certainly not less than twenty persons had free and repeated intercourse with him, during his illness; no one of whom was attacked by Malignant Fever, during the season.

4th. I think there can be no doubt, that the case of Isabella Adams, a black woman, who was moved to the Marine Hospital, from the corner of Greenwich and Chamber-streets, on the 7th of August,

was decidedly *Yellow Fever*. The circumstances respecting this woman's case, so far as they have come to my knowledge, are as follow: On the evening of the 6th of August, between the hours of nine and ten, a gentleman called at my house, with information, that he, as well as his neighbours, were greatly alarmed, with respect to a black woman, who had been sick for several days, without medical assistance, and who was generally believed to labour under Malignant Fever. I immediately went to the cellar in which she lay, and as, after the most critical examination, of which I was capable, I was apprehensive, that the fears of my informant were well founded, I forthwith communicated my suspicions to the Resident Physician, who, notwithstanding the lateness of the hour, accompanied me to the place, and gave directions for her removal to the Marine Hospital, at as early an hour, as should be practicable. To comply with this order, Mr. Delamater, together with myself, went to the house next morning at day-break, where we found the poor creature, oppressed with *black vomit*, and otherwise so extremely low, as to render the propriety of sending her off, somewhat questionable. When, however, we observed the coolness of the morning, the serenity of the sky, and that the wind and tide were both favourable, we were persuaded, that if no benefit should accrue from the passage, it was impossible that she could sustain any injury. From these considerations, therefore, as well as to remove the fears of the neighbourhood, she was sent to the Marine Hospital, where she died, within a few hours after her arrival, under, as I have since been informed, by the Health-Officer, the most marked and unequivocal symptoms of *Yellow Fever*. At least one dozen of persons visited this woman, previous to her removal; none of whom, if we except one,* was taken sick of the disorder. It ought to be

* A few days after this woman's removal, Mr. Delamater was taken sick of fever; but that he caught the disease of her, is certainly very problematical.

observed, however, that in this, as well as in every other instance of the same nature, every measure of fumigation and cleanliness, which experience had suggested, was uniformly resorted to.

5th. Of the numerous persons employed at the Marine Hospital, whether as physicians, nurses, washer-women, boatmen, and attendants of every description, no person was taken sick of fever, during the whole season; nor did any of those numerous persons, who, at different times, went down to Staten-Island as passengers, in the same boat with the sick, sustain the least inconvenience. All the pilots, likewise, who were employed in bringing up the different vessels, continued to enjoy an uninterrupted state of good health.

6th. Such sick persons as were sent down to the Marine Hospital, were, in general, transported from the Whitehall-dock, where it frequently happened, that they were obliged to remain some time previous to the sailing of the boat. No person in that vicinity, however, was afflicted with fever, till the 19th of September, when a man was attacked with it, who resided at the corner of Whitehall and Front-street. He soon afterwards recovered.

7th. The City Inspector, who daily visited the sick at Bellevue, and spent considerable time amongst them, enjoyed an uninterrupted state of good health, during the whole season. The physicians, nurses, washer-women, and attendants of every description, were all, in the like manner, exempt from disease; and this is the more remarkable, as there was nothing more common with the nurses, that when fatigued, to rest on the same beds with those who were in the last stage of the disorder. The hearsemen, likewise, who were employed in the dangerous business of removing the afflicted and interring the dead, were ne-

ver infected with the disease, either during the last season, or any other season of Pestilential Fever. To this may be added, that my brother, as well as myself, were constantly amongst the sick, as was also Mr. Delamater, immediately after his recovery, yet we were not infected with the fever.

8th. The three clergymen of the Roman church, viz. the Reverend Dr. William O'Brien, the Reverend Dr. Mathew O'Brien, and the Reverend Mr. Hurley, were incessant in administering spiritual consolation to the sick of their congregation, nor did they, in the discharge of this duty, avoid the most filthy cellars, or most infected places, yet none of them was, in the least, infected with fever, during the season.

9th. Of the physicians, who occasionally visited those who were sick of the epidemic, there could not, at the most moderate computation, be less than sixty, no one of whom, so far as I know, died, or was even ill of Malignant Fever. Medical gentlemen, however, did not fare so well, during the dreadful pestilence of 1798, when no less than 16 were swept off in discharging the duties of their profession, viz. Drs. Andrews, Brooks, D. Chickering, Dingley, Peter Faugeres, John B. Hicks, John B. Jones, Melcher Caldwell, Lamb, Millegan, J. B. Scandella, Elihu H. Smith, Teller, Tredwell, Varick and Young.

10th. The number of persons who were occasionally employed as nurses, certainly exceeded sixty. These, however, were not so fortunate as the physicians; four of them having fallen victims to the disease, viz. Sally Bates, Mary Dunn, Mrs. Sells, and Mrs. Lloyd. It is to be observed, however, with respect to these four, that the apartments in which the sick persons lay, whom they had last attended, were low, confined and ill ventilated. One other nurse

was taken sick; but after a stay at Bellevue, for a few weeks, she recovered.

11th. Upon the first commencement of the disease, and even during its continuance, a number of sick persons were removed from the infected parts of the city to the suburbs, and different parts on the western side of the town. But it is not recollected, that any evil resulted from such removal, not even in a solitary instance.

12th. Agreeably to the observations which I have made respecting the Malignant Fever, during the last, as well as the three preceding epidemics, it appears that no age or sex is exempt from its ravages, since instances can be adduced, of children at the breast, being affected with it, as well as persons of seventy years and upwards. I believe, however, that those who have been most conversant with the disease, will agree in opinion, that persons between the years of fourteen and forty, are more obnoxious to the disorder, than they of any other age. To males it is likewise, more frequently fatal than to females; and to foreigners, particularly from a cold climate, than to natives.

13th. Of the 302 persons who are stated to have died of Malignant Fever, in the city, at the Marine Hospital, and at Bellevue, it appears, that

88	were natives of the United States.		
67	do	do	Ireland.
21	do	do	England.
17	do	do	Scotland.
10	do	do	Germany.
7	do	do	France.
7	do	do	Wales.
1	do	do	Holland.

213 Brought forward.

1 do do Halifax, and

83 whose places of nativity were not properly
ascertained.

302 Total.

That is, 88 natives.

131 foreigners, and

83 whose country is unknown.

302 Total.

Now, if, of the 83 persons whose native country is not ascertained, there should be the same proportion of natives and foreigners, as of those whose country we know, (and this is, at least, highly probable) the total amount would be,

116 natives, and

186 foreigners.

302

15th. Amongst the several nuisances which exist in this city, there appears to be none of a more serious and alarming magnitude, than the allowing of people to lodge in low, damp cellars. Of a number of persons who were taken sick in such places, there is scarcely a single instance of any one having recovered, unless speedily removed to the Marine or Bellevue Hospital, or to some other place, where they could enjoy a pure and salubrious atmosphere.

As it may be interesting to know in how many houses more than one person was taken sick of the epidemic, the following list is subjoined, which, it is believed, will be found tolerably correct.

Christopher Hibbron,* William Aylesbury, James Kirkwood,* — Laughan and Andrew Stayley,* from the rear of No. 92 Maiden-lane.

Mr. John Hyde,* Mrs. Hyde,* Mr. John Hodgkinson,* and Miss Billington, Tontine Coffee-House.

Paul R. Johnson* and John Taylor,* 46 Cedar-st.

William Browning* and wife*, 90 Water-street.

William* and Mary Hunter,* 58 Front.

Robinson Hazard,* Harriot Robinson,* and Mary Covet*, 86 St. James.

Elizabeth Snyder,* Jane M'Donald,* 45 Nassau.

John and Susan Webster, and Horatio Richardson,* 156 Front.

Nancy Edwards and Rachel Quere, 38 Lumber.

William M'Lean, George Lewis, and Abraham Montagnie, 91 James.

John M'Dewit* and wife, Hannah Houston, James M'Dewit,* (a child) and Catharine Beam, 18 Pearl.

Mr. Hoyt and wife,* 82 Liberty.

Marian Mills* and James Malice,* 33 Ann.

Mrs. John Pope and sister, 12 Dover.

Daniel Snythen* and Catharine Tice,* 60 John.

Mrs. Deforest and son,* 13 Beekman-slip.

Philip Mahon and John Hull, 91 Broadway.

Hannah Wilson, James Wooden, and Maria, a black woman, 45 Broad-street.

Stephen and Jarvis Powel, 95 Pearl.

William Rider* and William Degraw,* 13 Barclay.

Charles Israel* and Mr. Hull, 5 New-slip.

Andrew* and Mary Murray,* 100 William-street.

Lawrance Ennis and Eliza Wheelan,* 4 Dover.

Andrew Kirkpatrick and wife, 6 Augustus.

Jane Murdock* and daughter, 28 Water.

Phoebe and Mary Fulkerson, and James Bolen*, 5 Moore.

* Those marked * thus died of the distemper.

Richard Tabele* and Mrs. Tabele*, corner Nassau and Fair.

Mrs. Cray* and George Jeweson, 22 Garden.

Mrs. Sarah Coles* and Miss E. Snow, 25 Water.

Margaret Baisely* and Deborah Smith* 47, Gold.

Anthony Dwyre*, Margaret Foley*, and James Cushing*, 7 Hague.

Susan and Mary Myers, 2 Beaver-lane.

Jane and Margaret Armstrong, Mrs. Moore, and a boy 10 years old, 10 Depeyster-street.

James Fifer and Samuel Bell, 359 Pearl.

Two children of Mrs. Tiebout, 358 Pearl, (one died).

15th. There is reason to fear, that the officious interference of friends with the prescriptions of the physician, has frequently been productive of the most fatal consequences to the afflicted. Of several instances of this sort, which might be mentioned, I shall content myself with one. A practitioner, upon visiting one of his patients, whom he found considerably better, and as he had reason to believe, out of danger, on leaving the house, gave directions to the attendants to persevere in the observance of a cooling regimen. A brother of the sick man, however, thinking that a more speedy cure could be brought about than was likely to be effected by the skill of the doctor, and having heard the practice of sweating highly recommended in cases of fever, administered to the sick man, a drink so hot, that he complained of his mouth and throat being scalded, as he swallowed it. The consequence was, that instead of recovering, as there were great reason to expect, he died within a few hours thereafter, of symptoms highly malignant. In the above, as well as in other cases of a similar nature, I am far from supposing, that persons thus disobeying the directions of physicians, were actuated by improper motives. To say the least, however, such conduct is highly *injudicious*; for what chance has a practitioner of being useful to his patient, unless his prescriptions be attended to, or indeed, why

send for one at all, if we think ourselves wiser than he, and are determined to follow no more of his advice, than coincides with our own ideas of propriety? And may not the great proportion of recoveries, which took place at Bellevue, of those who were sent thither in the early stage of the disorder, be attributed, at least, as much to the care which was taken, that every nurse should implicitly follow the prescription of the physician, as to the salubrity of the air, or to any other cause whatever?

16th. There is one observation which appears to me, to be highly deserving the attention of our fellow citizens, as, if it should be duly regarded, it may, in the case of a future epidemic, be the means of saving a number of lives. As soon as a person finds himself indisposed, in a calamitous season of this kind, he ought *forthwith* to procure the assistance of a skilful physician. *During the first few hours of the disease, time is peculiarly precious*; as it can then be generally subdued with facility. If, however, it be permitted to acquire an ascendancy before medical aid be called in, (and this, alas! is too often the case) the physician has the mortification to find his skill of but little use, and to see his unhappy patient perish in his hands, without being able, in the least, to contribute towards his relief. Although the justice of this remark will be denied by no person of reflection, yet there is great reason to believe, that there are many who would readily have subscribed to it, now tenants of the grave, merely because they did not attend to it. Delay, where expedition is of such immense importance, is certainly highly culpable, particularly as the corporation of this city have, in every season of pestilence, humanely made provision that the poor should be supplied with medical aid *gratis*.

17th. The fears of several of the poorer and more illiterate part of the community, especially foreigners,

of being removed to Bellevue, was very remarkable, of which I shall mention the following instance. I had, one morning, fallen in with a man sick of the disease, in a low cellar, where he was, in a great measure, destitute of every comfort and convenience, and I was informed by his physician, that his wife, who had only been a short time in the country, and had never seen a case of Malignant Fever, was pursuing a mode of treatment diametrically opposite to what he prescribed. As from every thing that I saw and heard, I had reason to fear, that the man, if permitted to remain where he was, would die, I was anxious that he should be sent to Bellevue, where I thought he would have a considerable chance of recovery. With a view to induce him to consent to this measure, I attempted to point out the advantages which I believed would result from it, and was happy to find, that my observations had the desired effect, as he expressed himself willing to go. His wife, however, and another female, accosted him with tears, in a language which I did not understand, the purport of which, as I afterwards learnt, was to dissuade him from his intention; but to this he still adhered. To induce his wife to acquiesce, I informed her, that the Board would be pleased, that she should accompany him; but this was to no purpose. Finding the man, therefore, perfectly reconciled, I requested that the sick hearse should be sent for him; but still apprehending some reluctance on the part of the woman, I deemed it advisable to accompany the drivers, not doubting that I should be able to prevail upon her to acquiesce in a measure, which I sincerely believed, might be conducive to her husband's recovery; but what was my surprize, upon opening the door, to find a large knife presented to my breast? As I had no serious intention of resorting to coercive measures, an argument much less cogent would have certainly induced me to relinquish my design. I, therefore, left the place with the gloomy presentiment of what was to happen. The man died within twenty hours thereafter.

CHAPTER VIII.

OF THE VARIOUS MODES OF CURE ADOPTED IN THE MALIGNANT FEVER.

IN a disease, which has been so peculiarly fatal to the inhabitants of various places in the United States, a considerable diversity of opinion, as might naturally be expected has existed amongst practitioners concerning the most successful mode of cure. Sudorifics, the copious use of mercury, and excessive bleeding have each had their respective advocates; and I am persuaded, it may be asserted without fear of contradiction, that in certain cases of malignant fever, each of these methods has been severally found to be productive of the most beneficial consequences. To any one, however, who has been much conversant with the disease, it is evident, that it appears in a variety of different forms. Hence that mode of treatment, which, in one instance, might effect a radical cure, might in another of the very same disorder, when under a different grade and modification, tend greatly to aggravate the unfavourable symptoms and terminate in a speedy dissolution. The judicious practitioner, therefore, in prescribing to his patients, is less influenced by the name of the disease than by the symptoms and circumstances attending it. These he will examine with the greatest care and attention, and after having formed his opinion respecting the nature of the case, will resort to such remedies as it may seem to require.

After having introduced these preliminary observations, I shall lay before my readers Dr. Currie's letter to Dr. Hosack, communicating his mode of treating the disease, the observations of the learned Dr. Chisholm of Grenada, relative to the use of mercury, and some observations on the utility of blood

letting in Yellow Fever, from the first volume of the second Hexade of the Medical Repository, p. 193.

From Dr. Currie to Dr. Hosack.

DEAR SIR,

" Since I wrote to you last, I have inquired into the practice of the physicians, at the yellow fever hospital this season, and find that after employing mercury in a few of the first cases, without success, they entirely abandoned its use, except in a few particular instances, and then they combined it with some purgative.

" They seldom employed blood-letting, even where the symptoms seemed to indicate it, as they seldom received their patients at a period sufficiently early to make it advisable.

" They however, used purgatives freely, and after their operation, in recent cases, they had immediate recourse to the warm bath, followed by large and frequently repeated doses of acetated pot-ash, which they preferred to acetated ammonia, and the liberal use of warm diluting drinks, and particularly of an infusion of expatorium, which you have so highly recommended.

" When these means produced free perspiration, with an alleviation of the febrile heat, and pain of the head and back, the disease generally came to a speedy and favourable crisis; but when the symptoms were aggravated by the bath, (and in some particular cases they appeared to be aggravated by it,) they spunged the whole surface of the trunk and limbs of the patient, with cold water and vinegar, with the happiest effect.

" In the second stage of the disease, when disordered stomach was the predominant symptom, after

due attention to the state of the bowels, they employed the bath of a much higher temperature, than in the preceding stage, and immediately after its use, they applied blisters and sinapisms to different parts, and especially to those most affected, directing at the same time additional covering, and such mild palatable drinks, as upon trial were found to remain best on the stomach.... When the patient complained of a burning sensation in that organ, calcined magnesia was administered in large doses, and frequently repeated, and when the bowels were not sufficiently free, laxative injections. But the hot bath followed by blisters and sinapisms, extensively applied, appeared to produce the most beneficial effects.

“ In this disordered state of the stomach, however, when these remedies failed, they had recourse to stimulating injections, particularly to the spirits of turpentine, which were exhibited mixed with a sufficient quantity of warm water, from half an ounce to an ounce or more, and repeated at short intervals, till they occasioned considerable tenesmus, after which, the stomach generally became so well settled, as to retain any medicine or nutriment that was thought necessary. Perhaps the tincture of aloes would have been still more effectual, in bringing on this counteracting symptom, than the turpentine.

“ This practice which was prosecuted with that zeal and assiduity, which does honour to the humanity of the physicians, and conducted with a discrimination which does credit to their judgment, has certainly been much more successful than that of former years ; for, although a considerable portion of the patients were admitted in the last stage of the disease, and consequently in a hopeless condition, nearly two thirds recovered, whereas in former years when blood-letting and mercury were almost exclusively “ the order of the day,” more than half died.

“Marks of gangrene were seldom observed in the stomachs of those that died, though preceded by symptoms which strongly indicated its existence for some time before the decease of the patient. The black matter usually found in the stomach, had none of the characters of either blood or bile, for white paper dipt into it, was neither stained red, purple, yellow, nor green, but appeared like it does when dipt in the fluid of a gangrene. Yet from the extravasations of blood, which always appeared on different parts of the surface of the stomachs of those who had vomited black matter, and the florid and extensive extravasation observed in the stomachs of some which appeared on the fourth day of the disease, who had not only thrown up very black but flaky matter, I am of opinion that the dark coloured flaky particles which give to the contents of the stomach the appearance of coffee-grounds, are only small portions of mucus, coloured by the dissolved and black blood which oozes into it....It cannot be bile altered in its colour, in consequence of a morbid state of the secretory vessels of the liver, because those vessels are seldom found in a diseased state, and because the bile in the gall-bladder, generally retains its natural colour, nor can the matter which resembles coffee-grounds, be bile changed in its colour and properties, after its entrance into the stomach; because this appearance is often found in the stomachs of persons who have had no vomiting at all, and without some vomiting, or at least some efforts to vomit, no bile can gain admission into the stomach.

“Nor can this appearance be owing to portions of the abraded villous coat of the stomach, because ulcerations are seldom observed, without which, or the existence of gangrene, it could not be abraded.”

The following is the opinion of the learned and

respectable Dr. Chisholm, concerning the use of mercury in this disease. In his Essay on the Malignant Pestilential fever, introduced into the West-India Islands, from Boullam, on the coast of Guinea, as it appeared in 1793, 1794, 1795, and 1796, second London edition, vol. 1, page 351.

“I was encouraged” says he, “to the practice of using mercury in this disease, by the appearance I perceived in the two first bodies I opened.—“The liver was evidently the most diseased part, and I knew that mercury was specific in all inflammations of that organ; besides, it was, at all events, better to try a doubtful one, than remedies of no efficacy. I accordingly administered calomel, either combined with nitre, camphor, and the antimonial powder, or in the form of a pill. After many trials of both, I preferred the last, chiefly on account of the nitre and camphor disagreeing with the stomach. The pill was generally composed of five grains of calomel, two of the antimonial powder, and one of opium, and repeated four times in the twelve hours, or eight in the twenty-four. I confess it was with no small degree of anxiety, I ventured on this practice, unwarranted by any other authority than dissection and my own observation; but its success justified my temerity. If salivation was speedily raised, the danger was removed, and the patient recovered. But in order to effect this, it was frequently necessary to increase the quantity, and number of the doses; and in several instances I pushed it to what I then considered an almost incredible length, with astonishing success. In one case, in particular, in whom signs of recovery did not appear till the twenty-first day, fully 400 grains were given before the salivary glands were affected.

“I have here stated my practice, and the extent I thought myself warranted to carry the mercurial

treatment, during the presence of the pestilence in 1793. As it then not unfrequently happened, from the necessary timidity a practitioner feels who adopts a new remedy in the treatment of one of the most dangerous and destructive maladies the human frame is subject to, that that remedy was not always pushed to the length which secures its efficacy: so on the re-appearance of the disease in 1794, I was determined to give calomel earlier, and in much greater quantity than the preceding year. Accordingly, instead of preceding the administration of this excellent remedy, with the usual evacuating medicines, I began with it, and continued without the interposition of any other, till salivation took place. The success attending this practice, exceeded my most sanguine expectation; so great indeed, was it, that I did not lose a single patient in whose case it was pushed to the full extent. My practice will, no doubt, by many, be considered as unwarrantably bold; but as its wonderful success has been experienced by several other practitioners, who can bear testimony to it, I feel not the smallest hesitation in recommending it with all the fervour which an earnest wish to save the lives of men, and the fullest conviction of, what, I am almost inclined to say, its infallibility can give rise to.

“ My mode of using the calomel after the re-appearance of the malignant pestilential fever in 1794, was to give ten grains, either alone, or with an equal or a double quantity of jalap, to an adult patient as soon as possible after I saw him. This generally acts as an evacuant in the degree required, about an hour or two after it is given. At the end of three hours I repeated the dose of calomel. At the end of three hours more, the same quantity is given, adding opium or not, as the preceding doses have acted. In this manner ten grains of calomel were given every three hours, till the salivary glands became affected, which generally happened in less than twenty-four hours from the commencement of the treat-

ment, if it was faithfully conducted. The effect of the medicine given in this manner, may be perceived after the third dose in general; the patient becoming calmer, less restless, less anxious; his skin being softer, and possessed of an agreeable heat; the stomach being perfectly retentive, however irritable it might have been before; and the eyes recovering their former lustre and sensibility. When at length salivation takes place, the patient is left free from disease, with a moderate warm moisture on his skin; and very soon after signs of returning health pre indicated, by calls for food, &c. The recovery of strength is proportionally rapid to that from disease; nor is it at all necessary to have recourse to bark, or any other medicine whatsoever; a circumstance truly gratifying both to the patient and the physician, in a disease wherein nature revolts at the very idea of it."

BLOOD-LETTING IN YELLOW FEVER.

The following facts afford the most conclusive evidence of the efficacy of this remedy in yellow fever, when timely and sufficiently used. The malignity of the disease on this occasion, is proved by the mortality which took place under the first mode of treatment, and the comparative results of blood-letting exhibits so fair and full a proof of its safety and usefulness, that we cannot avoid considering this body of testimony as the most unexceptionable and satisfactory, that ever come under our notice; it is extracted from the *Medical and Physical Journal*, for the month of June last.

A "successful method of treating Yellow Fever at its commencement....Communicated May 25th, 1803, by Dr. HARNESS, commissioner for sick and wounded seamen.

"Lieutenant Douglas, of the 25th Reg. relates,

that he embarked on board the Chichester store-ship, at Jamaica, for England, with one hundred and eighty men, seventy four of whom died on the passage previous to their reaching Halifax, in North America, exclusive of the captain, two lieutenants, surgeon and surgeon's mate of the ship. In consequence of the two latter having fallen victims to the disease, lieutenant Douglas felt himself driven to the necessity of undertaking the treatment of the sick ; and from the great fatality attendant on the calomel and purgative plan, pursued by the late surgeon and his mate, he (lieutenant Douglas) was induced to adopt bleeding, (as recommended by Dr. Jackson, and as had been suggested in lieutenant Douglas' presence, by the surgeon's mate of the 6th Regiment, a short time previous to lieutenant Douglas' leaving Jamaica) which proved to be productive of the happiest effects, as will evidently appear from the following statement.

“Lieutenant Douglas relates that after the care of the sick had devolved upon him, sixty-two men (thirty-seven of whom were seamen) were attacked with the symptoms of yellow fever, the whole of whom recovered by bleeding. Three others were likewise bled, but he observes, so late in the disease, or not until the symptoms of fever were so fully established, as not to be within reach of the remedy.”

Lieutenant Douglas remarks, the success in treating the disease was so evident to the troops and ship's company, that after a short time, they would on being taken ill, apply to be bled ; and lieutenant Douglas became so confident of its good effects, if had recourse to at the onset of the disease, as to induce him to give particular directions to be called in the night, should any one be seized with the leading symptoms of the disease ; and in every case (the three alluded to excepted) he had the happiness to see

every symptom give way or diminished, and unfavorable appearances, by one, two or three repeated bleedings, performed at intervals of a few hours, as the necessity of the remaining symptoms indicated.

Lieutenant Douglas not being educated to the profession, and consequently, ignorant of the doses of medicine, was induced to have recourse to clysters, when the procuring of evacuations appeared necessary; on which, with bleeding, as beforementioned, he rested the whole means of cure.

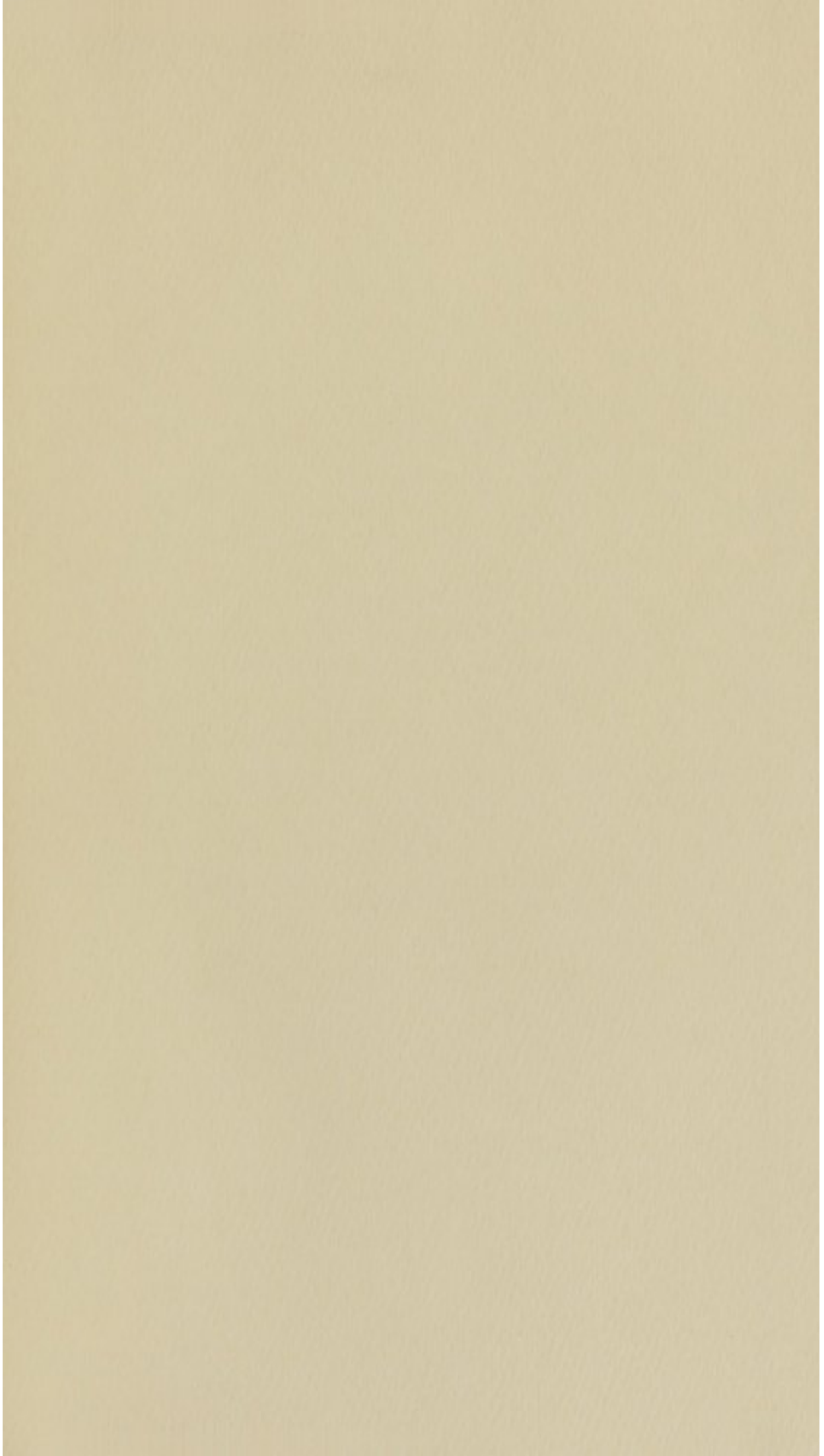
A List of Deaths of various diseases which have occurred in the city of New-York, in the years 1803, 1804 and 1805, during the months of August, September and October.

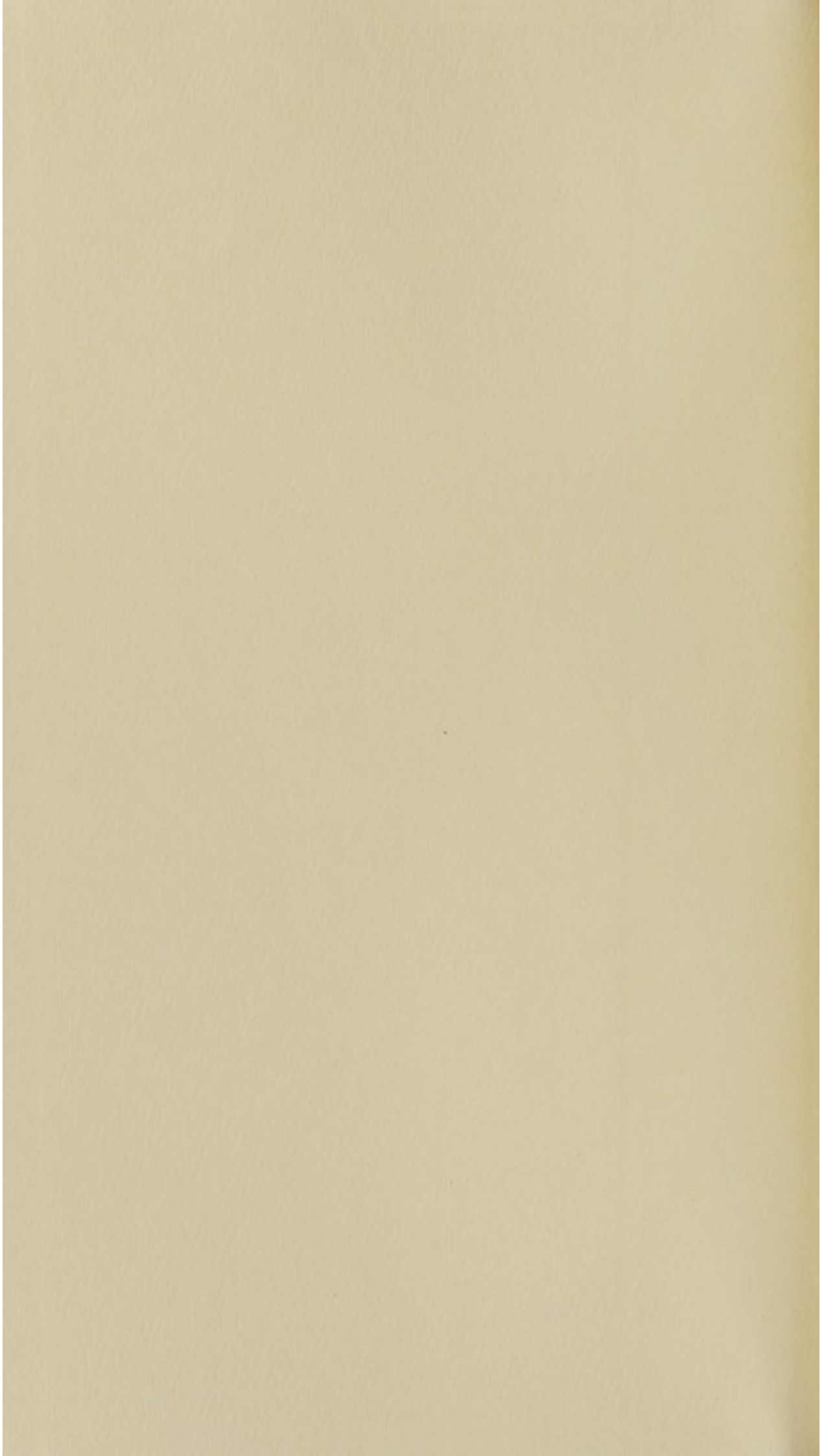
In 1803, 1256, of whom 606 were of Malignant Fever.

In 1804, 783.

In 1805, 934, of whom 302 were of Malignant Fever.

THE END.





Med. Hist.

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