

Report of the committee appointed by His Excellency the governor, to inquire into and report upon the probable cause or causes of the recent outbreak of cholera in the island of Mauritius in March 1856.

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REPORT

In. Dep. 3231/58

OF THE COMMITTEE

APPOINTED BY

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR,

TO INQUIRE INTO AND REPORT UPON

The probable cause or causes of the recent outbreak of Cholera
in the Island of Mauritius in March 1856.



H. PLAIDEAU, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, BOURBON STREET,
PORT LOUIS.

MDCCCLVII.



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COMMITTEE

COMPOSED OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL
OF GOVERNMENT.

OFFICIAL MEMBERS :

The Honorable S. J. DOUGLAS, *Acting Procureur and Advocate General.*

— W. W. R. KERR, *Auditor General.*

— P. D. SOUPER, *Acting Collector of Internal Revenues.*

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS :

The Honorable W. FORSTER,

— H. LEMIÈRE,

— G. FROPIER,

— C. W. WIEHE,

— Captain W. W. WEST, who died of Cholera and was re-
[placed by

— H. KÆNIG.

SECRETARY : Mr. E. NOLIN, of the Procureur General's Office.

The Committee elected the Honorable H. KÆNIG, as *Chairman.*

COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE OF MEMBERS OF THE SENATE

OF GOVERNMENT

The Committee is composed of the following members:

SENATOR J. H. HARRIS

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SENATOR J. H. HARRIS

MINUTE
OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR,

READ IN COUNCIL ON 16th APRIL 1856.

During the violence of the Epidemic by which the Colony has been visited, I abstained from noticing the reproaches with which the Government has been assailed ; because, while the hand of God's Providence pressed so heavily upon us, I did not consider that a proper time to take up the question of the manner in which the human means at our disposal had been employed to avert the calamity, and because I felt reluctant to agitate any topic that might possibly increase the irritation and excitement that already prevailed. But now that the Epidemic is happily subsiding, and, it is hoped, has nearly reached the termination of its devastating course, the voice of reason may again be heard, and thus afford to the Government an opportunity of disabusing the public mind of the erroneous impressions, as to its proceedings and intentions respecting the maintenance and enforcement of Quarantine Laws, which designing and ill-disposed persons have industriously labored to create, both by publishing the most unfounded and libellous statements, and by circulating idle and mischievous rumours.

The success which has attended these insidious efforts to poison the public mind, appears to have been considerable amongst those whose ignorance and credulity are too easily worked on at a crisis of agitation and alarm. But Truth will sooner or later prevail, and when known and understood, will speedily dissipate the extraordinary delusions, and strange misapprehensions which have been so sedulously and unscrupulously promoted.

In order, therefore, to attain this end, I am of opinion that the most effectual means should be adopted to ascertain and investigate the real facts connected with the reappearance of the Epidemic ; and for this purpose, I propose that a Special Committee of the Legislative Council be appointed to enquire into, and report upon, the probable cause or causes of the recent outbreak of Cholera in Mauritius, and whether it be expedient to make any alteration in the Quarantine Laws now in force.

I conceive that a Committee of this Board is the proper and legitimate authority for conducting this highly important inquiry ; and I hope that all persons who may possess information calculated to assist the Committee in the prosecution of the task confided to them, will freely afford it.

Looking to the inadequacy of the means which the Government possessed, at

the moment, to make immediate provision for the unusual emergency, some defects and short-comings in the arrangement could hardly have been avoided; but I do affirm, that the Government has been actuated throughout by an earnest desire to enforce the Laws of Quarantine in all their integrity.

In this spirit, every practicable precaution that the exigency suggested was taken to prevent the introduction of Cholera from the Lazaret on Gabriel Island; not with the laxity or indifference which, doubts of the efficacy of the measures adopted, might tend to produce; but with the care and vigilance inspired by a profound conviction of the imperative obligation imposed on the Government, in deference to the public feeling so strongly manifested, and in accordance with its own declared intentions on the subject, to assume that the disease was contagious, and to ground all precautionary measures on that assumption; and I believe I may add that, in the opinion entertained of the communicability of the malady by the Medical Officer who is charged with the General Superintendence of Quarantine, there was an additional guarantee for the rigid observance of all restrictive regulations.

The foul calumnies that have been heaped upon Myself, since the outbreak of the destroying pestilence which has carried sorrow and desolation to so many fond hearts and cheerful homes, need no refutation. I may confidently leave them to the calmer judgment even of those by whom they have been disseminated. But I will not believe, after the many gratifying manifestations of their approbation, confidence and gratitude, which I have received from the generous hearted people of Mauritius, that they can require protestations of my sympathy and condolence, under the calamitous visitation, to which it hath pleased God to again subject the Colony; or that because I have made no such professions, they can suppose me indifferent to their sufferings or indisposed to soothe and lighten them to the utmost of my power. And whilst I have bitterly lamented the sad bereavements which so many are now mourning, I have keenly felt how powerless I have been to succour or comfort the bereaved.

Amongst the fallen were some of the most esteemed and respected of our Citizens, whose loss, in common with all classes of the People, I deeply deplore.

Let us fervently pray that the ruthless scourge, which is now, under the Divine Mercy, abating, may speedily and for ever pass away.

Mauritius, Government House,

16th April 1856.

J. M. HIGGINSON.

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PRODUCED TO THE COMMITTEE.

Several Witnesses, amongst others, the Honorable the Acting Colonial Secretary, the Harbour Master, the Chief Medical Officer and Dr. Labat, produced, in the course of the inquiry and in support of their evidence, certain documents annexed to the present Report.

Two other Witnesses, Drs. Finnimore and Ford were good enough, on the invitation of the Committee to furnish observations, and a report upon different points relative to questions that arose during the inquiry. The Committee particularly recommends them.

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REPORT

OF THE COMMITTEE

APPOINTED BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

TO INQUIRE INTO AND REPORT UPON

The probable cause or causes of the last invasion of the Island of Mauritius by Cholera; and also, to examine whether it may not be expedient to make some changes in the Quarantine laws actually in force.

INTRODUCTION

AND PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS.

The mission confided to the Committee was of the highest importance. The Colony had just been visited for the second time in less than two years by the terrible scourge which has left behind it such numerous and deep traces of sorrow and of mourning. The Government could not remain indifferent in presence of so great a calamity and felt bound to investigate the causes thereof, and to take measures to prevent its return. For this purpose, His Excellency the Governor nominated a Committee chosen from among the members of his Council, to whom he has confided the mission of inquiring into, and ascertaining the probable cause or causes of the introduction of the Cholera; and also, to examine whether it be not desirable to make some modifications in the Quarantine Laws.

The plan of operations adopted by the Committee in the inquiry conducted by them, has been, as far as possible, to follow the natural order of events, from the moment of the arrival of the two Ships, the *Hydere* and the *Futtay Mombarrack*, until the date of the appearance of the Cholera in Port Louis.

Thus, they have diligently inquired into, and ascertained:—

1o. What took place on the arrival of the two vessels and at the period of their being placed in temporary Quarantine; their sanitary condition; the measures ordered, and carried into effect during the temporary Quarantine.

2o. The despatch of the vessels to, and the disembarkation of the Immigrants at, the definitive Quarantine Station.

3o. The state and condition of the Immigrants while undergoing Quarantine; their treatment, their nourishment, their lodging, and the provisioning of them, &c &c &c.

4o. The means employed for and the measures taken in communicating with the Quarantine Station, when communication was indispensable.

5o. The measures and precautions taken to prevent danger resulting from such communications, and to guard against illicit communication.

6o. The circumstances which preceded, accompanied, and followed the death of one "Alfred", one of the men employed on board the boats used in communicating with the Quarantine Station, who died of Cholera on board the Steamer *Victoria* on her return from one of her trips to the Quarantine Station.

The inquiry followed the course traced out by the events themselves; the witnesses were called and examined as nearly as possible in the order above indicated. Several were recalled and heard at various intervals, according as circumstances required it, or it was considered advantageous.

With the view of rendering the operation less tedious, the questions put to the witnesses have not, as a general rule, been recorded; and their replies alone will be found in the evidence. It will, however, be remarked that, in some instances, in the course of the inquiry the questions and answers are both recorded. This has been done in accordance with the wishes of the witnesses themselves, wherever from the importance or delicate nature of the interrogatory, they were desirous that it should be placed on record that their declarations were the necessary result of the questions addressed to them.

The number of witnesses heard was twenty six. Their depositions were taken with every possible care, with all the developments and with the fullest extension of which they were susceptible. Several of them embody details of the highest importance, and deserve to be examined with the most scrupulous attention.

The Committee considered it unnecessary to call before them the Immigrants of the two vessels placed in Quarantine:

1o. Because they could not have afforded any information respecting the

principal object of the Committee's mission, which was to know how the Cholera broke out at Mauritius.

2o. Because, so far as regards their lot at Gabriel Island, every information had been obtained; as will appear from the evidence of the most competent witnesses and from incontestable documents.

These documents and others, also very important, produced before the Committee, furnish useful information.

The whole is annexed to the present Report, in which the Committee will confine themselves to retracing, classifying and summing up the proofs which they have collected, and the facts and circumstances which they have ascertained. They will add but few observations or commentaries. The facts will sufficiently speak for themselves. The investigation and the opinion of the Committee have necessarily been based on the most scrupulous impartiality and any conclusions stated in the Report result from the force of circumstances, and are the inevitable deductions and consequences of acquired facts.

The Committee are not called upon to give a scientific opinion; not only is it no part of their mission so to do, but moreover they deem themselves utterly incompetent in the matter. The most eminent men of science are still at variance on the subject of the disease whose invasion has given rise to the operations of the Committee. Contagionists and non contagionists maintain their conflicting doctrines of transmission and non transmission with a conviction which experience does not yet appear to have confirmed or destroyed. But it is probable that what has taken place at Mauritius, may not be without influence upon the opinion of professional men.

After these short observations, we enter upon our subject matter.

ARRIVAL OF THE TWO VESSELS,

THE "HYDEREE" AND THE "FUTTAY MOMBARRACK"

AT PORT LOUIS.

The two vessels, the *Hydere* and the *Futtay Mombarrack* arrived from Calcutta in the month of January 1856, at an interval of a few days, namely, the 5th and 8th. They had on board, the one 272, the other 380 Coolies.

Upon the declaration of the sanitary state of each of these ships, the Health Officer, Dr. Ford, ordered them to be placed in temporary Quarantine. They consequently remained anchored at the Bell Buoy.

The General Board of Health met on the 7th January and after taking into consideration the report of the Health Officer, resolved that the *Hydere*, after having been previously fumigated, should receive pratique the follow-

ing day, provided that after inspection by the competent Medical Officer, the sanitary state of the people on board should be reported to be satisfactory.

The General Board of Health met again on the 9th January. The *Futtay Mombarrack* had arrived the previous day and it was ordered that both ships be retained in quarantine of observation until Saturday 12th; and that the Board of Health should again meet to take into consideration the new Report which the Health Officer was called upon to make.

At last, at the meeting of the 13th, it was ordered that both vessels, after being provided with water, should be sent to Gabriel Island for the purpose of disembarking their Coolies who should be placed in quarantine there.

The *Futtay Mombarrack* was the first despatched to Gabriel Island on the very day of the decision of the Board. She disembarked her Coolies there the 14th, returned to and anchored at the Bell Buoy on the 15th, and was admitted to pratique on the 17th.

The *Hydere* left on the 15th, having been detained to take in water and provisions. She disembarked her Coolies on the 17th and 18th, returned to and anchored at the Bell Buoy on the 19th, and received pratique on the 24th.

After this rapid and succinct narrative of the facts relating to both ships, it is necessary to enter into a more detailed examination of all the circumstances, and all the incidents connected with this first period.

THE PLACING

IN TEMPORARY QUARANTINE.

The *Hydere* on her arrival was placed in temporary quarantine in consequence of the large number of cases of sickness which had occurred during her voyage. The Captain made mention of fever, diarrhea and dysentery, and denied that Cholera had existed on board.—There had been twenty one deaths.—The Health Officer observed that several of them had terminated fatally in a short space of time, and in his report to the Chief Medical Officer for the information of the Board of Health, he had called the attention of the Chief Medical Officer to these particular circumstances.

The Minute of the proceedings of the General Board of Health on the 7th January runs as follows:

“ Read letter dated 5th January from the Health Officer, reporting the
“ arrival on that day of the ship *Hydere* from Calcutta, with 272 Coolies
“ on board, and that he had placed her in temporary quarantine on account
“ of the health of the passengers being in an unsatisfactory state. The
“ Board examined the medical diary of the ship from which they gathered

“ that the *Hyderee* left Calcutta on the 20th of November last; that two
 “ cases of Cholera occurred whilst the vessel was still in the Hoogly, one
 “ of which proved fatal on the 22d November, and the other recovered, but
 “ ultimately fell a victim to dysentery; that there were in all, during the
 “ voyage, 57 cases of illness and 20 deaths. Of these, one was from Cho-
 “ lera, one from dysentery, 3 from diarrhea, 3 from fever, 2 from accidents
 “ (drowned and scalded) and 7 were infants; and lastly that there are at
 “ present 50 on the sick list from fever, who have been taken ill from the
 “ 26th ult. (App. p. 70.) ”

It was impossible that the Committee of Inquiry should not be struck with the decision at which the General Board of Health arrived upon the premises, and with the fact that the Board could contemplate the possibility of admitting the *Hyderee* to pratique the following day, notwithstanding the restriction implied by a new visit and a new Report. The sanitary state of the ship as resulted from the documents submitted to their inspection and to which the Health Officer had directed the attention of the Chief Medical Officer, was, in the opinion of the Committee of Inquiry, of such a nature as to require all hesitation to be laid aside and to order the immediate enforcement of definitive quarantine.

Dr. Ford has declared before the Committee of Inquiry that “ he was
 “ ever of opinion that the vessel eventually would have to be sent to the
 “ Quarantine Station, and that it was not possible to admit her to pratique
 “ the day after the meeting of the General Board of Health, that is to say,
 “ on the 8th of January.” (App. p. 4.)

The Committee then put the following question to him :

“ Had you been a member of the General Board of Health, would you
 “ have contemplated the possibility of admitting to pratique on the 7th
 “ January, the *Hyderee* and her passengers with the knowledge you per-
 “ sonally possessed of the state of health in which she was ?

The reply was : “ Decidedly not.”

Another question being put to him by the Committee in these terms :

“ Had you been a member of the General Board of Health, having before
 “ you the same information as to the state of health of the *Hyderee*, as laid
 “ before them at their meeting of the 7th January last, would you have
 “ concurred in their resolution of that date ? ”

Dr. Ford replied :

“ From several cases of fever having so recently occurred, I should not
 “ have been inclined to agree with them.”

“ I visited the ship on the 5th and 8th January. From my knowledge re-

"sulting from these two visits of the state of the ship, I would have been inclined to send her to the Quarantine Station immediately."

"In some of my reports I have ventured to give my opinion, but I have been given to understand that it is not my duty to give my opinion on what steps are to be taken with respect to ships placed in quarantine." (App. p. 4.)

After the first decision of the Board on the 7th January, it was still a question on the 9th of only temporary quarantine, as well for the *Hyderee* as for the *Futtay Mombarrack* which had arrived in the interval. The minute of proceedings runs as follows :

"Read letter dated 9th January from the Health Officer, reporting that he went alongside the *Hyderee* to give her pratique, but, finding that four new cases of fever had broken out among the Coolies since yesterday, he hesitated doing so."

"Also, another of the same date, stating that he had placed the *Futtay Mombarrack*, arrived from Calcutta last night with 380 Coolies on board, in quarantine, on account of the unhealthy state of the passengers."

"The medical diary of the ship was examined, and it was found that there had been during the voyage 22 deaths, 9 of which were infants, and that there had been 13 cases of fever since the 30th ult." (8 days.)

It was consequently resolved :

"That the *Hyderee* and *Futtay Mombarrack* be detained in quarantine of observation until Saturday next, 12th inst., when this Board will again meet to consider a further report of the state of health of the people on board these vessels, which the Health Officer will be required to make." (App. p. 70.)

SUBJECTION

TO REGULAR QUARANTINE.

At last, on the 13th January, quarantine was definitively ordered, it is important to be acquainted with this Minute :

"Read further report, dated the 12th instant, of the Health Officer, on the state of health of the Coolies on board the *Hyderee* and *Futtay Mombarrack*, from which the following facts have been gathered :

"On board the *Hyderee*, 3 fresh cases of fever and 4 deaths have occurred since the 9th instant, of the latter, 2 took place yesterday, one from fever and one from dysentery, one this morning from fever ; also an infant from marasmus. The native Doctor on board is also reported on the sick list."

“ The Captain expects more deaths, and has water on board only for to-morrow, and moreover has no one to look properly after the sick.”

“ On board the *Futtay Mombarrack*, six new cases of illness have occurred since the 9th instant, 3 of fever, 2 of dysentery and one of diarrhea; and 2 deaths, one from dysentery and the other from diarrhea, which latter proved fatal after an illness of only 12 hours.”

“ The Captain of this vessel reports that a panic has taken hold of the Coolies, who begin to refuse to take their medicines and also that he has water on board only for 4 or 5 days.”

“ Read also a letter from the Captain of the *Futtay Mombarrack* reporting that the state of health of the Coolies is not improving and that unless they are landed shortly, the sickness will increase.”

“ Resolved that the *Hyderee* and *Futtay Mombarrack* being previously supplied with water, be directed to proceed to Gabriel Island to land their Coolies, there to undergo quarantine.” (App. p. 71.)

It is therefore, only after considerable hesitation and temporizing that the Board of Health decided upon ordering the enforcement of a regular quarantine.

It was not possible to admit any other solution, according to the terms of the last Minute, but it also results from the proceeding Minutes that the Board should have come to a similar decision at an earlier period and that it unduly prolonged the duration of temporary quarantine.

Although no fatal consequences immediately resulted to the Colony from this fact, the danger was not on that account the less real and there is reason to believe that the passengers themselves would have benefited by an earlier decision.

To what motive can we attribute this hesitation, this temporizing on the part of the General Board of Health?

The explanation will be found in the declaration of its own members, the Colonial Secretary, chairman of the Board, and the Chief Medical Officer. Of the three members of the Board of Health, one, the Honorable Mr. Bedingsfeld, had not attended the two first meetings of the 7th and 9th January; and the other two, Dr. Dauban and the Mayor of Port Louis, have fallen victims to the epidemic.

It is for these reasons that the Colonial Secretary and the Chief Medical Officer have alone been heard. In their opinion, even the composition of the Board is, or at least was vicious. Its powers and its attributions were ill defined; the functions of its members were not well determined; it was uncertain how and by whom its decisions were to be executed. Responsibility was thrown from one to the other and the greatest irregularities were naturally the result.

The composition of the General Board of Health has since been modified. The Health Officer whose presence would be of great utility, if not indispensable, is now a member of it; but the change is, perhaps, not sufficiently radical, and there is room to examine whether it might not be desirable to modify still further the composition and organization of the Board.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary, chairman of the General Board of Health, expressed himself thus :

“ It seems a very natural question put to me as chairman of the General Board of Health “ what were the reasons which induced the Board to come to the resolution, at the meeting of the 7th of January to the effect that the *Hyderee* shall be admitted to pratique on the following day.—”
“ The fact is, the question of pratique in this case being purely a medical one, I left it to the professional members of the Board to decide.”

“ I examined the documents laid before the Board of Health more or less, but this examination also, I left in a great measure in the hands of the medical members of the Board.”

“ I certainly did form an opinion on the sanitary condition of the *Hyderee*, but in forming that opinion I was chiefly guided by the opinion of the medical members of the Board.”

“ In reply to your question, I have no hesitation in stating that I was struck with the number of deaths and the amount of sickness on board the *Hyderee*, as being unusually large.”

“ The opinion of the medical members of the Board was that there would be no danger in admitting the vessel to pratique, and I beg to observe that, in my opinion, it is absurd to submit such questions of pratique to a Board composed of five members, three of whom are laymen.”

Being asked whether he had ever an opportunity of expressing officially this opinion, the witness answered :

“ No.—It is only recently when I have felt myself placed at the Board of Health with regard to such questions in a most false position, that I have become convinced of the impropriety of submitting such question to a Board so composed.”

“ Independently of the opinion of the medical members of the Board, I am guided in some measure in forming my opinion by the documentary evidence laid before the Board; but I should hesitate in differing in opinion from the medical members of the Board upon a medical question such as this; and I will even add that whatever might be my own opinion, I would not carry the decision of the Board by my vote in opposition to the opinion of the medical members of it.” (App. p. 15.)

Such sentiments and scruples are, perhaps, very laudable; but what can

be expected from a body whose President has the frankness to express them as he has done.

The Chief Medical Officer, on his part, has declared.

That he "did not recollect that any measures had been taken to prevent communication with those ships by the Board of Health; that care is left to the Harbour Master whose duty it is to attend to all marine matters"

"The Board of Health do not take any steps to prevent communication with vessels in quarantine. They order the quarantine and leave it to the Harbour Master to carry it out."

In his opinion, "the Board of Health is a deliberative and not an executive Board."

"The decisions of the Board of Health are executed by himself partly and by the Harbour Master."

"The Harbour Master receives instructions from the Colonial Secretary direct; so does he."

"He gives instructions to the pratique Doctor." (App. p. 9.)

The Committee of Inquiry considered it to be their duty as it were to confront the Colonial Secretary and Chief Medical Officer, and submitted to this latter some of the declarations of the former in order that he might explain himself respecting them.

Thus they informed the Chief Medical Officer that the Colonial Secretary had replied as follows to the question "Whether during the temporary quarantine of the *Hyderee* and of the *Futtay Mombarrack*, sufficient precautions had been taken to prevent communication?"

"I am not aware of any thing to the contrary; I am not charged with such matters either as President of the Board of Health or as Colonial Secretary. Quarantine Laws and Regulations provide for such precautions being taken, and the Chief Medical Officer is the Superintendent of Quarantine, and has the Control of the pratique."

The Chief Medical Officer being asked if he concurred in that opinion, replied:

"I do not entirely concur in that opinion. The duties of the Superintendent of Quarantine have never been properly defined: practically speaking, the Harbour Master is always charged with putting a guard boat over a vessel in quarantine."

Another question having been put: "Do you consider it part of your

“ duty to give instructions to the Harbour Master on the subject of surveillance of vessels in temporary quarantine? ”

His reply was :

“ I believe it is part of my duty, and when I see any occasion for it, I certainly do it; but as I have already stated, my duties have never been properly defined with regard to that. By Ordinance No. 37 of 1851, Art. 2, this duty belongs to the Board of Health.” (App. p. 47.)

As to the measures necessary for preventing communication, the Harbour Master has declared that :

“ The Port Department is destitute of a permanent quarantine establishment. The first thing done when a vessel is placed in quarantine, is to look for a guard boat for hire, and men to man the boat.—That the time which may elapse is more or less according to circumstances. That there is no doubt that during the night communication may take place with such vessels anchored at the Bell Buoy, unless there were guard boats, to prevent such communication, and that the presence of two guards on board would be the most efficacious means of preventing communication with a vessel in quarantine.” (App. p. 6.)

From all this conflict of opinions, of uncertainties, of inexecution, or of imperfect and uncertain execution of the necessary measures, great danger was certainly incurred by the sojourn of the two vessels off the Harbour. Once more, no directly fatal consequences ensued. But the Committee of Inquiry was not the less bound to make them a matter of investigation, in order to lay bare the vices of the system of quarantine then existing.

RETURN OF THE TWO VESSELS

FROM GABRIEL ISLAND,

AND THEIR ADMISSION TO PRATIQUE.

To complete all that relates to the two vessels, a few words remain to be said on the subject of their return after disembarking their passengers at Gabriel Island.

They were admitted to pratique as we have already seen, the one two days and the other five days after their return.

The Board of Health took no part in this admission, to which it ought certainly to have been a party. The Chief Medical Officer declares “ that the Colonial Secretary and he consulted together on the matter ; that they agreed the ships should be admitted because they had no proof of the

“existence of contagious disease on board, and that they had no authority from the Board of Health to keep them in quarantine.”

He afterwards adds that “it would have been more regular to have, as usual, an order from the General Board of Health, to admit these vessels to pratique, and that he did not apply to the Board in this instance for the reason given above. That he did not know why the Board on its part gave no order, but he thinks it was forgotten.”

He further states “that when pratique was ordered by him to the *Futtay Mombarrack* he was not aware of the two cases of Cholera at Gabriel Island which were reported to him the same day; and that had he known of them he would not have admitted her to pratique.”

The Colonial Secretary declares “that he remembers nothing about the discharge of the *Futtay Mombarrack* from quarantine; but as to the *Hydere*, pratique was given on the 24th January, by order of the Chief Medical Officer with the consent of the Governor, upon an application of the Chief Medical Officer dated the 22d January, in which he stated that the crew of the *Hydere* was then perfectly healthy.”

“That the Board of Health was not consulted, but that he did not think it was at all necessary to do so, or to refer the question to it, the Board not having required it to be so referred; and the Chief Medical Officer who, he considered, was fully competent to grant the discharge, not having required such reference to be made.” (App. p. 16.)

It seems unnecessary to make further quotations. The depositions of the Colonial Secretary and the Chief Medical Officer deserve to be carefully read from beginning to end, to be compared and studied. They clearly establish that from the ill defined nature of their respective functions, from want of proper regulations, they neither of them knew the exact extent of their duties and responsibilities. A system always dangerous, and to which it is desirable that a prompt remedy be applied.

It is from all the facts and circumstances above recited that the Committee have arrived at the conclusion that not only should the Board of Health have definitively ordered, as it subsequently did, the two ships *Hydere* and *Futtay Mombarrack* to undergo quarantine; but that it should have done so at an earlier period and not prolong the temporary quarantine at the risk of greater dangers.

JUSTIFICATION

AND NECESSITY OF THE QUARANTINE.

It might be said however that the vessels were not attacked with any contagious disease, that Cholera did not exist on board either ship, that none had occurred during the voyage: that only two cases had taken place

on board the *Hydere* and those whilst she was still in the Hoogy; and that Cholera only broke out after their arrival at Flat Island, and then amongst the Immigrants of the *Futtay Mombarrack*.

Abundant evidence had already proved that the quarantine was indispensable. Moreover, other considerations may be adduced in addition to those already presented.

Dr. Ford, the Chief Medical Officer, and the Chairman of the Board of Health all agreed in declaring that the sanitary state of both ships was very bad.

The Health Officer expressed a very strong opinion on the matter. The Chief Medical Officer declared that "the sanitary condition of the *Futtay Mombarrack* was bad, but perhaps not so bad as on board the *Hydere*." (App. p. 10.)

The Board of Health ascertained that on board the *Hydere*, 20 had died out of 57 cases of sickness and that there were still upon the sick list 50 patients who had been taken ill since the 26th of the preceding month, that is to say, within 10 days.

The Minutes of the Board of Health do not mention the number of cases of sickness on board the *Futtay Mombarrack* during the voyage, but a pencil note upon the Report of the ship's arrival mentions "72 cases." (App. p. 73.)

The Chairman of the Board of Health and the Chief Medical Officer declare that little reliance can, in general, be placed on the declarations of Captains and of Native Doctors and that they could not, in all cases, be fully relied on. (App. p. 10 and 14.)

The doubts in this respect are certainly fully confirmed by the fresh and numerous cases of sickness and of death on board the two ships the *Hydere* and *Futtay Mombarrack* whilst they were at anchor at the Bell Buoy.

Mr. Franck, Boarding Officer of the Port Department, whose duty it is to go alongside of all ships arriving, declares that from his own experience of the Native Doctors on board ships coming from India, he has a very poor opinion of their veracity. (App. p. 6.)

Dr. Finnimore declares that "from the inquiries he instituted he has reason to believe that the medical inspection of the Immigrants previous to embarkation in India is very imperfectly performed. That the health of the Immigrants of the *Hydere* and *Futtay Mombarrack* on embarkation was stated to be perfectly good, whereas in the case of the *Futtay Mombarrack*, on the afternoon of the day of embarkation, no less than six men and one woman, the latter a perfect skeleton, reported themselves ill with dysentery and diarrhea. This he had from the statement of the Native Doctor in charge of the *Futtay Mombarrack*. He was not able to obtain any similar intelligence from the Native Doctor of the *Hydere*, as the latter had died previous to his arrival at Gabriel Island." (App. p. 25.)

As to the appearance of Cholera upon the arrival of the Immigrants at Gabriel Island, the Chief Medical Officer states: That "his own opinion is "that there was no Cholera on board these two ships during their voyage, "with the exception of the two cases on board the *Hydere*, which occurred "in the Hoogly."

"That he considers the course taken by the disease at Gabriel Island indicates that it was a fresh epidemic of recent origin ;—that as far as his "opinion goes, he does not think that the disease could have originated of "itself, but it may have been occasioned by the landing and use of infected "articles.—That the disease broke out too soon to have originated of itself." (App. p. 11 and 12.)

Dr. Finnimore, on his part, declares that "he is disposed to believe there "was no case of Cholera on board the *Hydere* and *Futtay Mombarrack* "until their arrival at the Bell Buoy. He came to this conclusion from the "Report of the Native Doctor of the *Futtay Mombarrack* of whom he entertains a very high opinion,—but he cannot speak as regards the *Hydere*, the Native Doctor of which was dead" as above mentioned.

"That he cannot account for the outbreak of Cholera at Gabriel Island ; "he thinks cases had occurred on board at the Bell Buoy, before the vessels "went down to the Quarantine Station." (App. p. 26.)

This is very important, and in cases of diarrhea and dysentery terminating fatally in so short a space of time as several hours only, it is very difficult not to admit the existence of Cholera, especially if it be remembered that we have in this respect nothing beyond the declarations of the Captains and Native Doctors on whose statements little reliance can be placed.

It is, however, true that Dr. Finnimore in the Report which he sent to the Committee at a later period, does not repeat what he said in his deposition. He says in his Report (App. p. 118):

"It would also appear that no cases of Cholera occurred in either of the "vessels whilst they were at the Bell Buoy." It is perhaps a contradiction which has escaped his sagacity and his recollection, but his deposition, which moreover he does not retract, is not the less in evidence.

Drs Rogers and Hardie, members of the Committee to which the medical diaries of the two vessels were referred, both considered these Reports suspicious.

It is true that the Chief Medical Officer, the third member of this Committee, remarks that "it must be remembered they spoke after the event ; "that is to say, after the Cholera had already, broken out in Port Louis, and "also that they did not take into account how many of the deaths were those "of children, which makes a very material difference." (App. p. 10 and 11.)

However this may be, all the evidence concurs in proving that the sanitary state of the two ships was bad, that the number of cases of sickness

and death was unusually large ; that Cholera might have existed during the voyage notwithstanding the denials of those on board that such was the case ; because implicit reliance cannot be placed upon their statements as they admit at least two cases to have occurred on the departure of the *Hyderee* and that it must have existed on board whilst the vessels were at the Bell Buoy, according to the opinion, worthy of every confidence, of an enlightened medical man.

Since Cholera broke out immediately on their arrival on Gabriel Island, there is reason to believe that it is certain he was right and that under any circumstances it is at least probable that it would in like manner have immediately broken out in Port Louis, had the Immigrants been then admitted.

It did break out there less than two months afterwards and the opinion of the Committee is that it results from all the facts, all the circumstances and all the proofs collected during the inquiry, that it was there introduced and communicated from Gabriel Island, where it broke out immediately upon the arrival of the *Futtay Mombarrack*.

This opinion does not rest upon isolated facts of a direct and personal communication, but upon the union and assemblage of circumstances and faults fatally accumulated and which would necessarily lead to this fatal result.

It is a painful task for the Committee to enter upon the examination of the circumstances and facts which characterize this deplorable epoch. But the Committee has an imperative duty to perform to itself, to the Government and to society in general.

The facts elicited by the inquiry reveal many irregularities and considerable want of foresight. They even prove that graver faults have been committed. They will also, in some cases, establish circumstances of justification or at least of excuse, and they will be a terrible lesson which will prevent the country having in future to deplore similar misfortunes.

APPEARANCE OF THE CHOLERA

AT GABRIEL ISLAND.

It has been already mentioned that the *Futtay Mombarrack* disembarked her passengers at Gabriel Island on the 14th January. The same day the steamer *Lord Fitzroy Somerset*, was sent there with provisions, having on board Dr. Finlay appointed to take charge of the persons placed in Quarantine.

Dr. Finlay disembarked in the evening at Flat Island and proceeded next morning, the 15th, to Gabriel Island.

On the 17th he made his report to the Chief Medical Officer, and informed him that, on his arrival, there were 396 Indians on Gabriel Island, amongst whom two cases of Cholera had occurred, besides 33 cases of fever and 3 of dysentery; and that both cases of Cholera had terminated fatally. (App. p. 74.)

REPORT OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER.

The Chief Medical Officer himself made his Official Report to the Colonial Secretary on the 25th. He had given him private information on the subject the day previous. (App. p. 79.)

It is difficult to account satisfactorily for the delay which took place between the 17th and 24th, the dates of the two Reports of Dr. Finlay and the Chief Medical Officer. Is it attributable to the time of the despatch or reception of the former, or of the presentation of the latter?

The Chief Officer has declared in his deposition, as already mentioned, that "when he admitted the *Futtay Mombarrack* to pratique on the 17th, "after returning from Gabriel Island on the 15th, he was not aware of the "two cases of Cholera reported to him the same day, and that had he received Dr. Finlay's Report before granting pratique, he would not have "granted it."

"That the *Hydere* returned on the 19th, and was subjected to a longer "quarantine than the *Futtay Mombarrack*, that is to say until the 24th; "because in the interval, he had received the Report of the two cases of "Cholera at Gabriel Island." (App. p. 11.)

Later, in a further deposition, the Chief Medical Officer declared that "he "cannot state on what date he received Dr. Finlay's letter informing him "that on his landing at the Quarantine Station, he found there two men "attacked with Cholera, it may have been the 19th.

"That he does not recollect when he received Dr. Finlay's letter, but, so "far as he can recollect, he reported to the Colonial Secretary verbally as "soon as he received it." (App. p. 48.)

It is certainly very much to be regretted that on so serious a point as this, his declaration and indications are not more precise. Nevertheless it is easy to arrive at a positive result. The Chief Medical Officer, although he declares he does not remember when he received Dr. Finlay's letter, thinks that it might have been on the 19th. In fact it is on the 19th that the *Hydere* returned and anchored at the Bell Buoy, and it is possible and even probable that it brought Dr. Finlay's letter of the 17th, if it had not arrived previously. It might have been sent by one of the contractor's boats. The Steamer which had gone to Gabriel Island for the first time on the 14th had returned thence on the 15th, but it went again on the 20th and returned the same day (app. p. 83.) It would have brought the letter of Dr. Fin-

lay, if not already sent. In any case, however, the Chief Medical Officer declares that the *Hyderee*, which arrived on the 19th, was retained in quarantine longer than the *Futtay Mombarrack*, because he had, in the interval, received the Report of the two cases of Cholera at Gabriel Island, and he necessarily received it before the 24th since the prolonged quarantine of the *Hyderee* ceased on the 24th.

Dr. Finlay declares that in reply to his letter, he was directed to specify the symptoms which led him to believe that it was Cholera; and that he replied the symptoms were those of Asiatic Cholera. (App. p. 31.)

Did the Chief Medical Officer wait for a new Report from Dr. Finlay before transmitting his own?

However this may be, the Report of the Chief Medical Officer sets forth that several cases of Cholera had occurred at Gabriel Island, among the Immigrants landed from the *Futtay Mombarrack* and the *Hyderee*. (App. p. 79.)

It was therefore after a second Report made from Gabriel Island, for the first Report of the 17th only speaks of two cases from the *Futtay Mombarrack* and makes no mention of the *Hyderee*, or of several cases.

DECLARATION OF FLAT ISLAND AND GABRIEL ISLAND

BEING PLACED IN QUARANTINE.

Upon this report of the Chief Medical Officer, a Proclamation was immediately prepared on the 24th, ordering that Flat Island and Gabriel Island be placed in quarantine. (Appx. p. 80.)

INSTRUCTIONS OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

The original of this Proclamation is accompanied by a note from His Excellency the Governor marked "Immediate" which runs as follows:

"I entirely approve of this Proclamation being issued. The most stringent measures should be adopted to prevent the possibility of fishing boats communicating with the Islands. The Police on Gabriel Island have of course been instructed to prevent the departure of any persons who may land there. Similar precautions should be taken at Flat Island."

"I presume from Dr. Finlay not applying for further medical assistance or medicines, they are not required; but if the sickness continues to increase, another medical man should be sent." (Appx. p. 80.)

These instructions were transmitted the same day by the Colonial Se-

cretary to the Superintendent of Police (Appx. p. 81) and the Committee which has much to blame, cannot refrain from remarking how wise these measures were and how excellent would have been their effect, had they been strictly carried out.

This, unfortunately, was not the case.

HOISTING OF THE QUARANTINE FLAG.

It was only a fortnight after, namely on the 8th or 10th February, the 8th according to Dr. Finnimore (Appx. p. 91), the 10th according to the Harbour Master (Appx. p. 91) that the Quarantine Signal, the yellow flag, was hoisted.

ILLEGAL COMMUNICATIONS.

In the interval, communications might have taken place and actually did take place. Not only was this proved before the Committee upon the inquiry, but it had already been established by a Committee of Inquiry composed of Government Officers specially named for the purpose; namely, the Collector of Customs, the Protector of Immigrants and the Harbour Master. Their Report on the subject is dated the 24th March, and is annexed to the present Report. (Appx. page 89).

The facts established by this Report and reproduced before this Committee of Inquiry are, according to the depositions of Messrs. Clément, Captain; R. Harrison, Engineer; Johnson, Mate of the *Victoria*; W. Harrison, Engineer of the Dredging Vessel; and Victor Autard, Contractor for provisioning the Islands, that on the 6th February, the Steamer *Victoria* having proceeded to Gabriel Island with provisions, Mr. Creed, the Light-House Keeper, Mr. Spencer, Second Assistant, and Mr. Smith in charge of the prisoners came on board from Flat Island and remained an hour there.

That none of these persons had the slightest idea that the Quarantine extended to Flat Island, with which they had always had free communication.—That the yellow flag had not yet been hoisted there, but only at Gabriel Island.—That in the evening, when work was over, Mr. Victor Autard landed with his men and remained there till 10 o'clock.—That Mr. Smith, in charge of the prisoners at Flat Island sent back, on the 7th, in the contractor's boat, two men of bad character who were disembarked at Port Louis and sent to the Police Station.—That on the 10th, a workman feeling himself ill, left Flat Island, disembarked at Grand Bay in Mr. Lecacheur's boat, came to Port Louis, and received his wages at the Surveyor General's Office. That on the morning of the 10th, when the *Victoria* again returned to Flat Island, a boat belonging to Augustine Gateau came from Pointe aux Piments, having on board Mrs. Snelling, wife of the Assistant Light House Keeper, coming to rejoin her husband. Knowing nothing about the Quarantine, she landed at Flat Island and remained

there. The boat assisted in landing provisions and returned in the evening to the mainland.

That there was no communication that day between the people on Flat Island and the *Victoria's* crew, or the contractor's men. The quarantine flag was hoisted there as well as at Gabriel Island and the usual precautions observed to prevent all communication. (App. p. 89)

All these facts have been confirmed on the present inquiry by the depositions of Mr. Victor Autard, contractor for the quarantine service, and Messrs. Hypolite and Arthidor Bellerose who command his boats. (App. p. 40 to 44.) Mr. Autard adds that he saw the crew of the boat on board of which Mrs Snelling, the Assistant Light House Keeper's wife, came on the 8th February, carry her luggage up to the Light House;—that on their return, he employed them in landing provisions, and that he asked their assistance because he had but one boat that day.

Mr. Clement, commanding the Steamer, in confirming the same facts, declares that, "as far as he was concerned, he was entirely ignorant of the fact of Flat Island being in quarantine, and with regard to the persons residing there, he was perfectly sure they were also ignorant of it, and that it was only after the third voyage, when he took a quarantine flag with him, that these persons knew the island was placed in quarantine."

"That on the 12th February, Dr. Clerihew accompanied him to the quarantine station, but they could not communicate in consequence of bad weather, and that it was on this occasion the Chief Medical Officer informed him that Flat Island was in quarantine. That until then he had received no instructions respecting Flat Island, and that the Proclamation placing the Islands in quarantine had not been brought to his knowledge." (App. p. 36.)

Mr. Spencer, Assistant Harbour Master, states: "That he did not know when the two islands were declared in quarantine. At that time no orders were given, to his knowledge, in the Department, stating that the islands were placed in quarantine, but he supposes they must have been placed in quarantine when the two vessels landed their people there. He remembers that it came to his knowledge about the 13th or 14th February that a Proclamation putting one or both of these islands in quarantine was issued; but he is not quite sure whether both of the islands were placed in quarantine." (App. p. 59.)

IGNORANCE RESPECTING FLAT ISLAND

HAVING BEEN PLACED IN QUARANTINE.

It would appear, therefore, that notwithstanding the Proclamation of the 24th January, it was not generally known that Flat Island was in quarantine as well as Gabriel Island. It was even unknown in the Government Offices of Port Louis since prisoners and workmen coming from the Quarantine Station were received at the Police Office, and the Surveyor General's Office,

And yet the greatest danger might have resulted from this ignorance, as regular daily communications took place for the transport of water, and irregular communications might have existed according to all the evidence adduced on the subject; since as early as the 12th, the wife of the Light House Keeper fell victim to a disease which every thing leads us to believe was an attack of Cholera.

Who then is answerable for this negligence?

Here again the difference of opinion between the Colonial Secretary, Chairman of the Board of Health and the Chief Medical Officer presents itself as to the question of knowing by whom were the dispositions relating to quarantine to be taken and by whom were instructions to be given &c., &c. &c., a system, the consequence of which has been that either the necessary instructions were not given at all, or given too late, and the necessary dispositions either not taken or imperfectly carried out.

Thus, when the Colonial Secretary was asked: "Assuming that the parties implicated were ignorant that the islands were placed in quarantine, how do you account for their ignorance of the fact?"

He answers: "I presume that the Chief Medical Officer had not communicated to them that Flat Island as well as Gabriel Island had been placed in quarantine:" and he adds: "It was the duty of the Chief Medical Officer and not that of the Colonial Secretary to make that communication."

"The Government gave no special orders to communicate to the people at Flat Island that they were in quarantine."

"The Colonial Secretary is not charged with furnishing the yellow flags or ordering them to be hoisted; all communications with the Lazaret respecting quarantine matters can only be made regularly through the Chief Medical Officer, and all instructions to the establishment there, should be given by him." (App. p. 20.)

The Chief Medical Officer, on his part, declares "that he does not coincide with the Colonial Secretary, because the persons at Flat Island are not under his control, and never were; they belong to the Surveyor General's Department; and it was the duty either of the Executive or of the Board of Health to make the necessary communication to them."

Upon the question being put to him: "whose duty do you consider it was to issue orders to furnish the yellow flags and order them to be hoisted?"

He replied: "I never was in the habit of sending yellow flags to the former Lazarets, and yet they were always supplied; and I did not send any to the New Quarantine Station on the last occasion; I cannot say whose duty it was to have sent them." (Appx. p. 47 and 48.)

The Harbour Master writes thus on the 27th March 1856 :

“ One or two days before the requisition was made for the Quarantine Flags, Mr. Argent, the Store Clerk, took them himself to Mr. Cummins, by whom they were given to Dr. Clerihew, who forwarded them to this Department for transmission to Flat Island. They were sent down there on the 6th ultimo in the *Victoria* ; but whether any instructions were forwarded with them ; I cannot say ; I sent none. It would appear that they were not hoisted at Flat Island until the second voyage of the *Victoria*, on the 10th ultimo ; but who sent those orders I cannot say. I conceived that the Chief Medical Officer had the sole authority over the Medical Man in charge of the Lazaret, and confined myself to forwarding the stores sent down to me.”

SICKNESS AND MORTALITY AT GABRIEL ISLAND.

After having thus retraced all that relates to the measures and dispositions connected with putting the two vessels into quarantine, we come to the afflicting details of what was taking place at the Quarantine Station itself.

Since the Report of Dr. Finlay on the 17th January, of his having found two cases of Cholera on his arrival at Gabriel Island, 22 more deaths had taken place up to the 24th January (7 days) the date of the Report of the Chief Medical Officer.

From the 24th January to the 10th February, on which day the Quarantine Signal was hoisted (17 days) there were 53 additional deaths.

From the 10th February to the 26th of the same month, the day of Dr. Finnimore's arrival (17 days) there were 98 deaths. Total up to that day, 175 in 40 days.

From the arrival of Dr. Finnimore to the 4th May, the day of the last death, (the quarantine was raised on the 12th) there were 123 deaths more in 68 days, which makes a general total of 298.

These figures are not rigorously exact. They are taken from the general return of daily mortality, at page 123 of the appendix ; but Dr. Finnimore states that this return is only approximative as far as concerns the period preceding his arrival, and that he believes the real mortality to have been 26 less during that period. The total amount which he states at 271 is nevertheless considerable. This number is composed of 83 cases of Cholera, 90 of dysentery, 58 of fever, and 32 of other diseases. (App. p. 124.)

To what causes is this fearful mortality attributable ?

The Committee of Inquiry have necessarily directed their attention to the subject.

Were the indians destitute of the necessary shelter and provisions? Was the intensity of the disease owing to the salubrity of the place?

SALUBRITY OF FLAT ISLAND.

The salubrity of Flat and Gabriel Islands has never been contested. The Chief Medical Officer declared that he had not sufficient experience of the locality to decide whether Gabriel Island was as healthy as Flat Island. (App. p. 12.)

But Dr. Finnimore declares both islands to be very healthy, and that it was proved on preceding occasions.

And William Mason, a carpenter attached to the Surveyor General's Department, and who has sojourned 18 months at Flat and Gabriel Islands, declares that, "in his opinion, Flat and Gabriel Islands are very healthy places; that at the time the Coolies were upon Gabriel Island the weather was very bad and the people being under canvass, which was a very hot covering by day and cold at night, this might have contributed to the great mortality, as it is enough to make a healthy person unwell. That the quarantine place is so agreeable, he would like to return."

"That there were as many as 80 persons at one time on Flat Island and he never noticed any sickness among them before the quarantine."

It results from the official statement of the Protector of Immigrants (app. p. 107,) that in the years 1850, 1854 and 1855, eight vessels were put in quarantine; six at Flat Island and two at Gabriel Island; and that the Immigrants disembarked at Gabriel Island, 423 men, women and children, from one ship, and 248, from the other, were much improved by their sojourn of upwards of one month on the island; during which time they only lost 6 persons out of 675, whilst their loss during their voyage had amounted to 43. These two vessels were the *Sultana* and the *Progress*.

SHELTER AT FLAT ISLAND.

The passengers of this last vessel had left the Quarantine Station on the 4th January 1856, only ten days before the arrival of those from the *Hyderee*, and when these arrived on the 14th, there were three wooden buildings of 27 feet by 17, besides the necessary materials to construct three more. Besides this, there were about 30 tarpaulins, 20 feet by 15, 125 poles and 100 lbs of cord, intended for the construction of 30 tents. (App. p. 46.)

The Government had been guided in these supplies by a Report of a special Committee named by His Excellency the Governor in the month of October preceding, and which had reported that there were at the Surveyor

General's Office, 10 tarpaulins, 7 of which were in good order and 3 required repair; and that in order to provide for the housing of 500 Coolies it would be necessary to provide 20 new ones, each 20 feet by 15, besides 125 poles and 100 lbs of cord to construct tents. (App. p. 112.)

These supplies were not found sufficient and the necessary augmentations were made later.

Towards the middle of February, a large quantity of planks, about 19000 feet, as well as timber, was sent by the Steamer to Gabriel Island, with eight creole workmen, under the direction of the master carpenter of the Civil Engineer Department, Mr. Mason. It is proper to remark that to the credit of these men, they consented to go there during the height of the epidemic. A week afterwards they had completed a Hospital 40 feet by 16, and 16 huts of 16 feet square. The number was ultimately augmented to 25. (App. p. 46 and 49.)

The first supplies having proved insufficient the Committee feel bound to express their opinion that the number of tents specified in the Report of the special Committee of October 1855 was too limited and ought not to have been adopted as a base for the arrangements made for the Quarantine of the Immigrants by the *Hyderee* and *Futtay Mombarrack* who amounted to nearly 700 in number, and required an immediate extension of shelter, specially on the eve of the rainy season. But on the other hand, it must be remembered that it was not to be supposed that two vessels with so large a number of passengers would arrive at the same time; and there was but little time allowed to prepare for them, and take the necessary measures and dispositions. The severe weather which ensued increased and complicated the difficulties; the weather fine at first, soon became very bad. (App. p. 25, 26.)

The insufficiency of shelter which, in ordinary times, would not have been felt or would have caused little inconvenience, became much more serious and might have been attended with much graver consequences owing to the severity of the season.

Dr. Finnimore states "that he attributes the extent of the mortality to the insufficiency of shelter, and that it was the chief cause of it. Nevertheless he adds that he considers it possible that the previous health of the Immigrants may have rendered them more susceptible to the ill effects of the insufficiency, as from the inquiries which he had instituted, he had reason to believe that the medical inspection of the Immigrants, previous to embarkation in India, is very imperfectly executed."

"That the state of the weather also contributed greatly to the progress of the disease; that the weather was very bad in the beginning of the quarantine, and that in a better season the mortality would probably have been much less." (App. p. 25 and 26.)

It is no doubt a matter for regret that the Immigrants by both ships should have been united in the same Quarantine Station. It would certainly have been desirable after the two first cases of Cholera broke out among the passengers

of the *Futtay Mombarrack*, to have separated those who subsequently arrived by the *Hydere* from them. This is also the opinion of the Chief Medical Officer, but he states that he had no means of so doing. That it would have been very difficult to do so at Gabriel Island because it is of small extent, and there were no palissades at hand;—that it would have been possible to separate them by placing one set of Immigrants on flat island, but it was considered expedient to keep Flat Island free from quarantine to enable the Contractor to go on with the permanent quarantine buildings. (App. p. 12.)

It was the works of the Light House, rather, which led to this determination, as it was upon it they were then working, and it was not considered advisable to suspend these works on account of their importance to navigation.

It will not be amiss to record here, that there had previously existed on Coopers' island, at the entrance of Port Louis Harbour, a Lazaret established at a very heavy expense;—that it was a very complete quarantine establishment which could serve and had already served, for every quarantine purpose, except, however, Cholera. But it had become necessary to abandon this first establishment, the Military Authorities having required the site of it for their fortifications.

PROVISIONING.

As to the provisioning of the Quarantine Station, official returns furnished by the Military Commissariat, were produced and published. (Appx. p. 86 and 87.

It is not possible to reproduce them here; but they may be consulted. They prove that a large amount of food, clothing and supplies in general were furnished, so that there can be no ground for supposing that the unfortunate sick were subjected to any serious privations on this score.

The Colonial Secretary believes “that the people in quarantine were not always provided with what was necessary for their subsistence, but that was no fault of the Government, for whatever was deemed necessary by the Chief Medical Officer was authorized to be furnished immediately.”

Police Serjeant Browne testifies “that the Indians were never short of provisions during the time he was on the Island; on one occasion only, previous to his illness, they were short of water owing to an accident, the boat having upset in coming across from Flat Island.” This does not mean that they were entirely without water, but that there was merely a limited supply.

WATER AT GABRIEL ISLAND.

There is no water at Gabriel Island, but it was sent thither from Flat Island by boat or a canoe specially affected to this service.

There is a well at Flat Island which furnishes water in abundance. It appears from a Report made by Colonel Frome, the Surveyor General, that they had before had to supply 1000 men from this well, and there never was any scarcity. (Appx. p. 95.)

Serjeant Browne adds that "the scarcity of water lasted two days," (his printed evidence p. 57 of the Appendix says "10 days," but this is a misprint, the original manuscript bears "two days.") "On the day subsequent to that on which the canoe had upset, the Steamer brought down 59 casks of water from Port Louis, but this water was foul and the Indians would not drink it; it was even difficult to get the Indians to cook their food with it."

"The day following, the canoe which had upset, was recovered, and a supply of water procured from Flat Island: during this scarcity of water, the Indians went to the other side of the Island and collected the rain water from the hollows of the rocks and drank it." (Appx. p. 57 and 58)

SUPPLY OF MEDICINES, &c.

Accordingly to Dr. Finlay's evidence, "medicines and comforts were not supplied in sufficient abundance," but the Committee think that this evidence does not fulfil all the conditions necessary for basing an opinion on it, moreover he only alludes to a deficiency in certain articles which were immediately supplied.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

DR. FINLAY.—With respect to medical assistance, the Committee regret to be obliged to say that it was not in the first instance what it ought to have been, and that Dr. Finlay was unequal to what was expected from him. His appointment to Flat island was an unfortunate circumstance, but the Chief Medical Officer declares that when he selected him he could not find any other Medical man, and that he had no choice between sending him, and sending no one. Moreover that Dr. Finlay's education and qualifications were superior to those of other persons previously employed in the same capacity. (Appx. p. 50.)

The Chief Medical Officer further states "that the permanent appointment of the Quarantine was offered to several of the local practitioners, who, one and all, declined it, adding that he would not find any one to accept it;

“ and that he did not offer them the temporary employment, because it is certain that none would like to lose their regular practice for the sake of an appointment of a few weeks.

“ That Dr. Finnimore was not at first sent to the Quarantine Station, because he belonged to the Staff, and was not at the disposal of the Civil Authorities. Later, he thought it expedient from the urgency of the case and the number of sick and also from the circumstance of the Steamer having returned from the Quarantine Station upon two different trips without any report from Dr. Finlay, to recommend sending another medical man to take charge of the men in quarantine; in consequence, the permission of the Major General to dispose of Dr. Finnimore was obtained.” (Appx. p. 50.)

It is but an act of justice to recall to mind here, that at the very commencement, and in his memorandum upon the Proclamation of the 24th January, His Excellency the Governor had already recommended the sending a second medical man.

Finally, the Chief Medical Officer being asked, and not feeling at liberty to decline answering, says he is bound to state that “from his experience of the manner in which Dr. Finlay discharged his duties whilst in charge of the Quarantine Station, he would not feel disposed to recommend him for further employment under Government.” (Appx. p. 51).

William Mason, carpenter, attached to the Surveyor General's Department, being asked whether Dr. Finlay discharged his duties properly in every respect, says: “He does not think Dr. Finlay acted as he ought; he has seen him rather awkward from drink, and that, not once or twice, but often.” (Appx. p. 56.)

THE NATIVE DOCTORS.—Of the three Native Doctors who came on board the two ships *Hydere* and *Futtay Mombarrack*, one died a fortnight after his arrival at Gabriel Island, a second was ill during the whole period of the quarantine (app. p. 32) so that there was only one effective, of whom Dr. Finnimore conceived the highest opinion.

DR. FINNIMORE.—Dr. Finnimore arrived at Gabriel Island on the 26th February and it is with the highest satisfaction the Committee declares his conduct deserving of the greatest praise. He states that he found the Coolies in a very deplorable state, but they were suffering to a great extent from sickness and debility; that they were very inadequately housed, that is to say, they were supplied with tarpaulins on poles, but not sufficient for their number and for the state of disease. That there was no organization whatever and that several days elapsed before he could ascertain the precise number then upon the Island. (App. p. 24.)

Yet the zeal, activity and devotion displayed by Dr. Finnimore were not attended with the happy results expected from them. The service was regularized, and greatly improved and still the disease continued to rage in a proportion that would tend to throw considerable doubt upon the opinion

that the great mortality was the result of insufficient shelter and want of medical assistance. In fact, according to him, they lost in the first forty days 150 out of 650 persons and during the 68 days of his administration they lost 123 more out of 500, altho' properly speaking there was no longer any question of Cholera, which ceased the day after his arrival, but only fevers and dysentery notwithstanding that the weather had improved and the men were amply supplied with every necessary and with wholesome and comfortable shelter.

In presence of these facts and of these results, the Committee do not wish to palliate the faults resulting from want of foresight, which will have at least added to the sufferings of the victims; but it conceives itself justified in attributing the principal cause of these deplorable events to the state of debility of these infortunate people upon their departure from Calcutta. So great was this debility that 54 of them died before entering into quarantine, that a great number had been sick on board, and even on arrival, according to the reports of the Captains, and that more than two thirds of them were a prey to disease on the day of disembarkation at Gabriel Island; and consequently that wherever they had been located and whatever care might have been taken of them, the mortality would have been, if not quite so considerable, at least still very great.

However this may be, the Committee cannot help observing that so great a mortality is unfortunately not without precedent in the history of this fatal disease, without any assignable cause.

THE MAN "ALFRED."

Unfortunately the very day that Dr. Finnimore arrived at Gabriel Island, the Steamer which had taken him down, brought back a man named "Alfred," who expired on board the *Victoria* in the Harbour of Port Louis.

The Committee have examined into the circumstances which may have led to the sickness and death of this man, one of those employed on board the boats used in communicating with the Quarantine Station.

The communications to which they will particularly turn their attention, are those which took place with Mauritius, it being necessary and indispensable to have frequent intercourse between it and the Quarantine Station.

COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN FLAT AND GABRIEL ISLANDS.

The Committee cannot however pass over in silence what concerns the two Islands respectively. They were both declared in Quarantine conjointly, and consequently communication was not only forbidden with both, but between both.

It has been already noticed that, notwithstanding the Proclamation of the 24th January, the people at Flat Island were, or pretended to be, ignorant until the 10th February, of Flat Island being in Quarantine. When the yellow flag was hoisted the ignorance could not continue. But it results from the Inquiry that communication was easy between the two Islands, by boat at all times, and on foot at low tides. It moreover results that communications did actually take place between the two Islands, not only in consequence of the natural facilities, but also from want of effective surveillance, and from insufficiency of means of surveillance.

Even the legitimate communications were themselves conducted in a dangerous manner. Water was sent from Flat Island in barrels, which were put ashore on Gabriel Island, and thence rolled to the camp by the men upon the latter Island, who again rolled them down to the shore when they were emptied. Thence they returned to Flat Island after being touched and handled by men affected perhaps by the disease, or the germ of it, which is commonly considered to be one of the means susceptible of transmitting the malady.

Also on the 12th February, the wife of Mr. Creed, the Light House Keeper, died after a few hours illness of a malady which, according to the evidence before this Committee and from the symptoms, as detailed to two of its members when at Flat Island, there is every reason to believe was Cholera.

COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN MAURITIUS AND THE QUARANTINE STATION.

As to the communications between Mauritius and the two Islands, the distinction existing between legitimate and indispensable communications made with prudence and the necessary precautions, (as had been recommended by His Excellency the Governor from the commencement, Appx. p. 95) and illegal and imprudent communications must not be lost sight of. Those belonging to the two last categories should be as strictly prohibited and repressed, as the former should be protected.

Communications must necessarily take place in order to afford to the people in quarantine all the supplies and assistance they may require. If it be a duty towards society to take all possible measures and precautions that the disease be not communicated and spread, it is a duty no less sacred towards those who are forced to undergo quarantine, to insure to them all the assistance and even the comfort that it is possible to give them.

The Steamer, as well as other boats, was necessarily employed in transporting and disembarking supplies of all kinds. Special instructions ought to have been given, and measures adopted to insure the observance of every possible precaution. Were these instructions and measures sufficient? and were they duly carried out?

The Report, doubtless, and the documents produced, establish that solici-

tude and recommendations were not wanting. His Excellency the Governor, the Honorable the Colonial Secretary, the Chief Medical Officer, and the Harbour Master, each and all, within his sphere, his powers, and his attributions gave every instruction that they judged necessary. (App. p. 67, 68, 69, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80.)

But it is not sufficient to give instructions however precise, however detailed they may be, without ascertaining whether they have been obeyed, and given in due time. The most important point of all is to ensure their execution.

MODE OF DISEMBARKATION.

At first, all supplies brought by the Steamer, were transhipped from her into the boats of the contractor, M. Autard. These boats anchored at about ten paces from the shore and the supplies were then carried on men's heads to the beach.

During this operation, the men on the island were kept beyond a certain distance from the place of disembarkation, which latter spot, they had however occupied a short time, perhaps a few moments before. Were they removed quickly enough, and soon enough, to render all communication impossible between the boatmen and the persons on the island?

The distance was 400 yards according to Police Serjeant Doran (app. p. 28) and 200 yards according to Dr. Finlay (app. p. 53;) as far as from Government House to the Quay, according to Mr. Hyppolite Bellerose, commanding one of the contractor's boats (app. p. 42) and about a quarter of a mile according to Mr. Arthidor Bellerose, in command of another boat (app. p. 43.) These two latter distances are equivalent to about 400 yards.

The Committee consider these indications as merely approximative and very uncertain. There is no means of ascertaining their exactness.

But was the camp itself evacuated? Could the sick and dying be removed as well as those who were in good health? The camp is to windward of the landing place; Dr. Finlay states that it is about 1000 yards from the shore, that the old huts were near the landing place, but that the new ones were farther by about 3000 yards.

But after reflection, the witness stated that his estimate of the distances was erroneous. That the old huts were about 120 yards and the new ones about 300 yards from the landing place (Gabriel Island is 4000 feet or 1333 yards long, by 2300 feet or 766 yards broad.

VISIT OF DOCTOR HARDIE.

It is expedient to remark that when Dr. Hardie visited Flat Island, on the 19th February, to make the Report called for by His Excellency the Governor, he stated that "he gave instructions to the constables to see that the Coolies were sent over to the other side of the island before any further communication took place. That on approaching Gabriel Island, he found the camp placed near the southwest of the island and nearly to windward of the spot where all the things were landed. The smell of smoke from the camp was quite perceptible and even the smell of a roast fowl was easily made out." (app. p. 96.) And in the present day, when the transmission of this malady by the air is generally admitted, it will be readily admitted at such distances as those whence the odorous emanations of this nature can be easily appreciated.

It results therefore from Dr. Hardie's report that the camp was very near, and that, in Dr. Hardie's opinion, the men were not sufficiently distant, since he sent them to a greater distance.

Dr. Finlay says on this point, that "he never sent the Indians to the other side of the island, but that they were sent there by order of Dr. Hardie, in opposition to his wish, because he wanted to have temporary communication with the island. He explains that it was contrary to his wish, because they were exposed to the extreme heat of the sun, whilst if they had remained in their tents they would have found shelter."

"When he communicated with Dr. Hardie he walked down to the beach and stood at a certain distance; Dr. Hardie remained in his boat. The distance between them was about 200 yards." (App. p. 34.)

Whether, therefore, the indians were sufficiently distant at the time of landing when at a distance of 200 or 400 yards, or that they were sent to the other side of the island agreeably to the wish of Dr. Hardie and contrary to that of Dr. Finlay, it is certain that the measure adopted by the former was that which was attended with the least danger, and that he considered the habitual distance was insufficient, since he sent the men to a much greater distance.

However that may be, Dr. Finlay was in the habit of sending the indians to the beach, or of permitting them to go there, and they were withdrawn each time that a boat approached. The people in the boat who, in their turn, went on shore trod the same soil as had just been occupied a few instants before by men who, if they were not attacked by the disease, might be so at any moment. It is not impossible that they should there meet with linen, clothes, utensils, fœces, or some other traces of their very recent sojourn; other more direct communications might even take place. There is nothing to prove the contrary. The number of Indians on the Island was very considerable. The men who manned the boats and disembarked the supplies amounted to a certain number; and seamen are, in general daring and imprudent. A rigorous surveillance was not, perhaps, exercised; even the means of doing so were very restricted. There was

but one serjeant, three constables and a peon. Serjeant Browne fell sick soon after his arrival. On the 6th February, 6 other constables were sent, and on the 19th, serjeant Doran and one peon ; but it is only on the 28th February, that 8 other constables and an Acting Serjeant were despatched. (App. p. 27, 83, 88.)

Dr. Finlay cannot have been very strict or very scrupulous, as regards Quarantine Regulations and communication ; for he went himself 10 or 12 times to Flat Island, either to visit the sick, or upon his own private affairs and yet communication between Flat and Gabriel Islands was forbidden. (App. p. 33.)

All these considerations lead to the conclusion that there was imminent, or at least possible danger of communicating the disease by the boatmen approaching and landing at Gabriel Island.

But it may be said that it was absolutely necessary for them to land there in order to deposit the supplies and that there was no means of doing otherwise.

Might not a flat bottomed boat, or lighter, have been employed to receive these articles which would have been discharged into it from the boats of the contractor or of the Steamer ; on the departure of these latter the boats of the Island might have landed the articles from the lighter. The lighter might have been moored at a suitable distance between both Islands.

CHANGE IN THE MODE OF DISEMBARKATION.

This very simple and less dangerous means was, in fact, employed but at a very late period. The Harbour Master having learned that there was on the spot a flat bottomed boat which had been sent to cut coral upon the reef at the northern part of the Island, wrote to Dr. Finnimore to employ it in landing the supplies in the manner suggested above, and from that period that plan was adopted.

These instructions were given the 7th March (App. p. 69) but the man Alfred had died on the 27th February ; and on the 17th March the Cholera was ravaging Port Louis !

Captain Wales states that he would have given this order from the first, had he been aware of the existence of the boat ; but that he was ignorant of it. (App. p. 7.)

ALFRED ON BOARD THE STEAMER.

On board one of the contrator, Mr. Autard's, boat, was a creole named Alfred. He had been on every voyage to Gabriel Island, and went for the

last time on the 26th February. He had been there several times previously, amongst others, on the 20th and 23rd (Evid. of Cap. Wales p. 8.)

HIS OCCUPATION.—He was employed in landing the supplies sent by the Steamer, and was so employed on the 26th February as on preceding occasions.

HIS ILLNESS.—Already, on the very morning when he left Port Louis, he had complained of being ill. Finding himself more unwell in the course of the day, he was placed on board the Steamer on her return to Port Louis where he arrived in the evening.

HIS DEATH ON BOARD THE STEAMER.—The disease had already made considerable progress, and Alfred fell a victim to it in the night of the 26th—27th February.

RECOGNITION OF THE CHOLERA.

Dr. Labat called in to visit the patient about half past ten at night, recognized all the symptoms of Cholera.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE SHORE.—Nevertheless as soon as the Steamer had arrived the entire crew had landed and dispersed itself throughout the town. The Captain of the Steamer has declared that he had not the slightest idea that Alfred was attacked with Cholera.

REEMBARKATION OF THE CREW NEXT DAY,

AND STEAMER PLACED IN QUARANTINE.

The next day the crew was reembarked and the Steamer placed in quarantine at the mouth of the Harbour.

A few days afterwards Cholera broke out in Port Louis, only to cease after sacrificing in Mauritius thousands of victims!!

The communication of the Steamer with the land was a great fault, and a great misfortune, since on arriving at 9 o'clock at night, it had on board a man so dangerously ill that he died a few hours afterwards, at one o'clock in the morning.

The excuse or rather the pretext, that neither the Captain nor any one on board, had the least idea that it was Cholera is not admissible. It was sufficient that a man was unwell for the Captain to abstain from communicating and this man had just left a place in quarantine where the Cholera was raging fearfully.

The Harbour Master, who was not informed of the death of Alfred until his arrival at his office next morning, states that the Steamer ought to have been placed in quarantine, having arrived with a sick man on board, and thinks that, as she arrived so late at night, it was the Captain's duty to have placed her in quarantine; but that not being a medical man he did not know that he had Cholera on board and that his reason for having brought in the ship so quickly was to procure medical assistance for Alfred.

(App. p. 8). A sorry excuse after all, for he could have sent ashore for a doctor without permitting the whole crew to land.

The Colonial Secretary has made the following declaration on this subject.

" I believe that immediately after the case was reported to the Chief Medical Officer, he took steps to have all the people who had landed from the Steamer on board again, and the vessel put in quarantine."

" I have heard that almost all the crew had landed."

" I never heard the Chief Medical Officer had suggested the placing of the Steamer in quarantine on her return trips from the Lazaret; nor am I aware of any person having suggested it. On the contrary, I have heard that the Chief Medical Officer expressed great astonishment, when this event happened, that the subjecting of the Steamer to quarantine on her return had not occurred to him previously."

Much greater was the astonishment of the Committee at learning that neither the Colonial Secretary nor the Chief Medical Officer, nor any other authority had thought of giving instructions to guard against this fatal occurrence, when they all knew with what intensity the malady was raging at Gabriel Island.

Upon being asked the question: How did it occur that a case of Cholera existing on board, the crew were all allowed to land? the Colonial Secretary answered: " Because the vessel was not placed in quarantine."

" That he could not say that the people on board had any suspicion of the case in question being a case of Cholera, but he believes great doubts were expressed by others on the subject, especially by Drs. Montgomery and Ford."

" That he cannot say that the patient was seen by those gentlemen; that these doubts were not officially expressed; and that they were expressed on the same day as the death of the man occurred."

He adds: " I think that it was the duty of the Captain of the Steamer to place his vessel in quarantine, coming from the Quarantine Station, with a man so sick on board, especially as he, the Captain, was a Pilot."

Being asked: Under the particular circumstances of the existence of Cholera at Gabriel Island was it not the duty of Government either itself to give instructions or to make sure that instructions were given to the Captain of the Steamer for his guidance in any emergency which might arise, of the same nature as that which happened? The witness answers:

" The law not having prescribed such duty to the Government, I cannot take upon myself to say it was or was not its duty."

The Committee does not hesitate to say that, in its opinion, the most formal instructions should have been given on this subject from the very first and that the vessels employed in the quarantine service ought most certainly not to have been permitted to enter the harbour directly and without any precautions, upon their return from the Quarantine Station where the malady was raging so virulently. If the necessary precautions had been taken, it is probable that Mauritius would have been preserved, and it may be said that the only precaution of real utility was neglected.

DOUBTS RESPECTING THE EXISTENCE OF CHOLERA.

The Colonial Secretary mentioned that doubts as to Cholera having really existed on board the Steamer had been expressed by persons who had not seen the patient, namely Drs. Montgomery and Ford. The Harbour Master also states that he did not see him and expresses doubts likewise. He wrote to the Mayor of Port Louis and informed him of the death of one Alfred and concludes his letter by saying: "my opinion is that this illness, altho' doubtful, is not Cholera; but I have acted as if I considered it might be so, and have accomplished my duty as a public officer."

It was probably under the impression of these doubts that a document produced by Dr. Labat during the Inquiry, was written; which document Dr. Labat subsequently wished to withdraw; but which the Committee refused to allow. (App. p. 60.)

He says: "In answer to my report of the case of Cholera which occurred on board the Steamer, I received from the Chief Medical Officer, copy of a letter from the Colonial Secretary, dated the 28th February, which I hand in; I beg to observe that, in this answer, I am reproached with having written the word "Cholera", on the corner of the envelope of my Report, but this was done, not with any bad intention, but with a view of calling immediate attention to my communication, which I considered very important, and it was only addressed to public authorities." (App. p. 59).

The letter addressed by the Colonial Secretary to the Chief Medical Officer and transmitted to Dr. Labat, runs as follows:

"I deemed it to be my duty to represent to His Excellency the Governor the very unguarded manner in which Dr. Labat, Assistant Surgeon at the Civil Hospital, thought fit to report to you the case of alleged Cholera which occurred on board the *Victoria* Steamer on Tuesday evening, and His Excellency has desired me to request that you will inform Mr. Labat that he acted most thoughtlessly in inscribing the word "Cholera" on the corner of the envelope enclosing his Report; and that in reproving him for thus acting in a manner to excite alarm amongst the Public, you will enjoin him to be more circumspect and considerate for the future."

Would to God that Dr. Labat had been mistaken and that the event had confirmed the doubts at first expressed respecting his declarations!

APPEARANCE OF THE CHOLERA

IN PORT LOUIS.

In the course of but a few days afterwards, a woman in Labourdonnais street was attacked with Cholera and died of it on the 7th March. It was at first thought that she was the wife of Alfred, but it has been discovered that she was a stranger to him. Almost simultaneously with her attack, a person was attacked on the *Louisa* sugar estate, in the district of Pamplémousses, after returning from Port Louis. He did not die, but a servant sent from Port Louis to nurse him took the disease and died.

It was long considered that these were the first two cases, but it has been since ascertained that two soldiers had been attacked, the first on the 3rd March, a serjeant of Sappers and Miners, stationed at Fort George, and the second, the next day, an artillery man in the Citadel, of whom it is said that he had not left his post for a week.

The Committee who have no scientific opinion to give and have only to record established facts, confine themselves to observing that these two cases occurred 6 or 7 days after Alfred died, and after the entire crew of the Steamer had been dispersed throughout the Town on the night of the 26th—27th February. It belongs to professional men to compare the facts, and deduce the proper conclusions therefrom.

The Colonial Secretary himself had no knowledge of these two cases at Fort George and the Citadel until the 19th April. He had even thought that the two men had died, as he had already declared to the Committee, (Appx. p. 23) but it was an error which he subsequently rectified (App. p. 27).

The mission of the Committee necessarily ceases with the recital of these first cases, which constitute the invasion of Cholera. The scourge was not long in extending itself both in town and in the country, and the epidemic became general. But the Committee is not called upon to trace its progress, as it was only charged with investigating the causes of the invasion.

It will however remark that the disease only appeared in the districts after having first appeared in Port Louis. The Chief Medical Officer in his Official Report upon the Cholera of 1856, establishes (app. p. 104) "that a portion of Savanne was attacked at the very commencement of the epidemic which had evidently been introduced into the District by a prisoner arriving from Port Louis, about the 8th March and who was attacked with Cholera on his journey. On his arrival at Savanne the disease spread amongst those who were in contact with him or near him." It was the same in all the other Districts of the island, where the disease always first appeared in persons who had come from Port Louis.

It is desirable also to observe that it has been asserted that there was a case of Cholera previous to that of Alfred. The Chief Medical Officer has declared to the Committee that some months before the death of Alfred and consequently before the appearance of Cholera in 1856 he had seen an unmistakable case of Cholera in a Soldier who was treated by Dr. Docker of the 5th Regt, and that he would send a statement of the case (app. p. 48.)

This was an isolated case; the man recovered. The Chief Medical Officer produced to the Committee the Report of Dr. Docker, who describes it as Sporadic Cholera occurring in the person, of George Jackson in the month of August 1855, more than 6 months before the epidemic which commenced in March 1856, upon which it could not have the slightest influence. (App. p. 116)

Should there exist the slightest doubt in the mind of any one, it will be dissipated by the fact that all the physicians of the island agree in stating that none of them knows of any case previous to that of Alfred.

In reply to the question of how Cholera was introduced, the Chief Medical Officer states, that "he cannot offer any opinion respecting the appearance of Cholera in Port Louis. He thinks it more likely that it came from Gabriel Island for the reason of the coincidence of its existing there; that he cannot say whether it could have come without direct communication." (App. p. 14.)

The Colonial Secretary and Chairman of the General Board of Health, in answer to the question of how the Cholera was conveyed from the Lazaret to Port Louis, replied that "he was not competent to answer the question; that according to his views on the subject it is possible the disease was introduced from the Lazaret—that he considers not only himself incompetent, but every other person too, because he finds the ablest writers on the the subject differ with one another."

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE

RESPECTING THE INTRODUCTION OF CHOLERA.

As to the Committee, they believe after having read over, examined, and studied the whole of the evidence laid before them and the documents produced, that it is impossible to arrive at any other conclusion respecting the appearance of Cholera in Mauritius in the month of March 1856, than that it was introduced there from Gabriel Island, by the Steamer *Victoria* and the man Alfred.

DISSIDENCE OF OPINION

OF ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

This opinion is unanimous with the exception of one vote. The dissident member having moved that certain documents which he presented in

support of his opinion be annexed to the Report and the documents accompanying it, the Committee consented and has placed them in the Appendix p. 127 to 162. The other members consider the facts proved in evidence before them as so conclusive that these documents have failed to shake their convictions.

GROUNDS OF THE COMMITTEE'S OPINION.

On the 26th February, the day of Mr. Finnimore's arrival at Flat Island, and of the death of Alfred, the malady had attained its greatest intensity.—It then commenced diminishing and continued to do so.—Under the intelligent and skilful direction of Dr. Finnimore, order was re-established, the surveillance augmented and the means of communication improved.

But until the 26th February the sickness and mortality had always gone on increasing. Great disorder prevailed: there was a total absence of all organization; the means of surveillance were insufficient and the surveillance itself consequently ineffective. The means of communication offered no satisfactory guarantee against the dangers of communication.

Alfred had been on every voyage of the contractor's boat to Gabriel Island; he had always been employed in disembarking stores and supplies. He did not discontinue his voyages or his occupation when the malady was raging most violently at the Quarantine Station. He was ill at the time when he proceeded thither for the last time on the 26th February, but he had been there the 20th and 23rd. When he returned on the 26th he was worse and he died the same night. It is clearly established that he died of Cholera. By a fatal want of foresight, and by impardonable negligence, communication with the shore was not prohibited. The whole crew landed, and dispersed themselves throughout the town, and a tardy quarantine was not ordered till the next day.

Such is a rapid, but rigorously exact picture of all that relates to the sickness and death of Alfred, which preceded by a few days only, the appearance of Cholera in Port Louis.

With this chain of circumstances, with this mutual relation, combination and coincidence of all the facts, to what other cause is it possible to refer the outbreak of Cholera in Mauritius, than to introduction from Gabriel Island by the death of Alfred on board the Steamer upon her return thence, and by the communication of the entire crew with the shore?

These facts speak for themselves. It is unnecessary and perhaps not within the province of the Committee to draw inferences or conclusions therefrom. They therefore confine themselves to a recapitulation of the main features of the evidence adduced before them.

RECAPITULATION.

Two vessels arrived almost simultaneously having had a great number of cases of sickness during their voyage, having each lost upwards of 20 people, and still having very numerous cases of sickness on board.

After a great deal of hesitation, after having kept both of these ships in temporary quarantine the one for a week, the other for 5 days and after having very nearly admitted one of the ships to pratique, the General Board of Health decides upon putting them both into regular quarantine.

During the temporary quarantine no measures were taken, no instructions were given either by the General Board of Health, or by the Chief Medical Officer or by the Colonial Secretary. They each confine themselves to saying that it was no part of their duty, and to denying their responsibility.

All the necessary dispositions were left to the Port Department which has no permanent Quarantine Establishment.

The precautions taken to prevent communication are acknowledged to have been such as not to render it impossible.

The two ships are despatched to the Quarantine Station at Gabriel Island without any special instructions; and are admitted to pratique, the one two days and the other six days after their return to the roadstead of Port Louis.

This admission to pratique takes place without the participation of the Board of Health which had forgotten to give instructions.

In the interval of the two admissions to pratique, a Report is received stating that Cholera had broken out at Gabriel Island. This circumstance which would have prevented the admission of the first vessel, had it then been known, retards by a few days that of the second.

The report of the Chief Medical Officer, that Cholera had appeared at the Quarantine Station, is not made until eight days after that received from the Medical Man in charge of the Quarantine Station, and no explanation is given of this delay.

Then, and then only, is the Quarantine Station declared to be in quarantine by a Proclamation, this Proclamation is accompanied by immediate, very precise, and very wise instructions especially on the part of His Excellency the Governor; but they are not strictly executed.

The Quarantine Flag is not hoisted until a fortnight later; until then free communication exists with Flat Island, one of those placed in quarantine, and where the Proclamation was unknown, even by the Officers of the

Harbour Department, and of the Steamer charged to communicate with the Quarantine Station.

The men sent to Gabriel Island in January, amounted to nearly 700. The accommodation destined for them was declared sufficient in October previous for 500. This accommodation is not increased until the malady is exercising its ravages.

The means of surveillance are very restricted and insufficient. They also are only increased later.

The means adopted for provisioning the Station, are at the outset imperfect and dangerous. At a later period they are improved, but only two months afterwards and when Cholera is ravaging Port Louis.

A flat bottomed boat, belonging to Government, and which offered the means of more suitable and less dangerous communication, was on the spot, where it had been previously sent for government works, but its existence was unknown to the Department.

As to the Steamer and the other boats employed in communicating with the Quarantine Station where the malady was raging with the greatest violence, no instructions were given to take any precautions on returning from their trips to the infected place.

No one even thought of it ! It was not thought of until a man had died of Cholera on board the steamer arriving from the Quarantine Station.

Neither the Captain, nor any one on board had the slightest idea that this man might be attacked with the Cholera, though they were returning from a place where it was exercising frightful ravages, and where the man had frequently been.

The Captain is one of the pilots attached to the Harbour Department, and the pilots are specially charged with preventing the entrance of any ship, provisionally at least, when there is sickness on board.

Yet the steamer enters the Harbour, comes up close the Quay, and her whole crew amounting to nearly 40 men, land, disperse themselves about and pass the night in town.

It is only on the morrow, after the man's death, that the Steamer's crew is sent on board, and that a tardy quarantine at the mouth of the Harbour is ordered.

Some days afterwards, although the authorities are still doubting, Cholera breaks out in Port Louis !

The sequel is known to every one ; the task of the Committee is accomplished. They have abstained from importing personal blame to any one, because they have not considered this to enter into the sphere of their duties. They have stated at the commencement of this Report, that the facts would sufficiently speak for themselves, and now that those facts are recorded it belongs to the competent authority to pronounce upon them.

There is however, one deposition in this Inquiry to which there has hitherto been no opportunity for alluding but which should not be altogether passed over in silence. It is that of Mr. Channell, editor of the *Commercial Gazette*. (Appx. p. 51.)

MR CHANNELL AND THE "COMMERCIAL GAZETTE."

The Committee considered it desirable to call Mr. Channell to obtain from him some information relative to certain articles published in the newspaper of which he is the editor.

Mr. Channell refused to reply to the principal questions addressed to him, not considering himself obliged, as editor, to give up his authorities for any information or declaration of facts that may appear in his paper. He persisted in his refusal, notwithstanding the observations of the Committee, that if as an editor, he considered himself authorized to refuse to answer, he ought, as a citizen.

VISIT TO FLAT ISLAND.

One more point remains to be mentioned ; the visit of the Committee to Flat Island.

The Committee in order fully to accomplish their mission deemed it desirable to inspect the Quarantine Station. The Government placed the Steamer *Victoria* at their disposal for this purpose ; several persons, and amongst others several medical men, expressed a desire to take advantage of this opportunity in order to satisfy themselves as to the eligibility of Flat Island as a Quarantine Station. The Committee thought, that in a matter of such vital importance to the Colony, it was their duty not only to offer no objection, but even to encourage a certain number of persons to judge for themselves as to the state of the place.

All the Members of the Committee along with those who accompanied them, visited Flat and Gabriel Islands, and examined these localities with every care and attention. Their examination was certainly not so complete as they could have wished, they having passed only a few hours there, but with the information which they already possessed, and from that acquired in the course of the Inquiry, this period was sufficient for them to form an opinion.



Flat Island is perfectly suited for a Quarantine Station. The Committee think it would be difficult to find in any place whatsoever a situation uniting so many favorable conditions.

The extent of the Island is about 600 acres. It is sheltered on one side by a hill with a gentle slope of about 20 feet high which protects it from the sea breeze, and terminates on the other side by a hillock of about 300 feet high, on which is established the Light House.

The soil appears to be very fertile. It is covered with grass of good quality and of luxuriant vegetation. It affords excellent pasturage. There are a number of cocoa-nut trees and shrubs and some trees. The whole wants attention, but there is no doubt that with the necessary care these trees will grow perfectly.

The soil moreover is suited for every kind of cultivation, particularly for gardening and grain. Thus maize, manioc, ambrevades, potatoes, sweet potatoes, and all sorts of vegetable succeed admirably; and there is always sufficient pasturage for a considerable number of cattle.

It has been already shown from official documents, (app. p. 95) that the well furnished sufficient water for 1000 men. Several Members of the Committee and other visitors tasted the water, and found it as good as, if not better, than any water on the windward side of Mauritius, where there is only well water to be had. Such water is not so well tasted as spring or river water, but a person soon becomes accustomed to it, and it is moreover perfectly healthy.

Besides this, there exists at the foot of the Light House Hill a fresh water spring, which appears to be pretty abundant, and which might also perhaps prove of great use.

Gabriel Island is, so to speak, a dependency of Flat Island, of much less extent, and at a distance only of 200 or 300 yards from it. It is separated from Flat Island by a shallow basin of water, and the communication by boats between the two Islands is always very easy. At low tide all communication can take place on foot, and nearly dry shod.

The aspect of the Island is pleasanter than that of Flat Island because the vegetation is more vigorous and more concentrated. Many shrubs, and a large quantity of the plant called "Flat Island Balsam" are found there; this latter plant is an excellent vulnerary, and is also employed with success in disease of the chest.

The Members of the Committee could not by themselves judge of the salubrity of the two Islands; on this subject no opinion could be formed in a single visit; but they found the air on both very pure. All those who have frequented and inhabited these Islands agree in stating that they are both equally salubrious; the information collected during the Inquiry leads to the same conclusion.

As to the facility of landing, or the security of the anchorage, the Committee are not competent to offer a certain and professional opinion; but they can say that on the day of their visit, though the sea was pretty rough every one landed easily, and the steamer appeared to be securely anchored. Yet it was in the month of August usually considered one of those in which the wind and sea present most difficulties in mooring, and the day of the visit being fixed long before hand could not have been selected on purpose. It is readily conceded that a landing will sometimes be difficult, if not impossible, but the Committee remarked on the occasion of their visit that in another part of the Island at the place called the "Palissades" behind the Light House mountain, the sea was much more calm, and appeared to offer sure means of communication in all weathers. As far as could be judged from a simple inspection of the localities, when the sea is rough and landing is difficult in the ordinary pass between the two Islands, the water is smoother and landing easier at the "Palissades." But the sea may, though rarely, be rougher at that spot. In such case it must be less so at the opposite side; and if it sometimes happens that it is everywhere rough and that no landing can be effected this is a condition incident to every place washed by the sea. The Harbour of Port Louis, so fine, so calm, and so still, is itself sometimes unapproachable.

As regards the question of anchorage, the Committee are bound to offer no opinion. To discuss this question, the Members should be sailors, possessed of special knowledge and experience. But as far as every man may judge science affords the means of remedying any inconveniences or imperfections of nature which may exist.

In mentioning in the Report their visit to Flat and Gabriel Islands, the Committee only offer the personal opinions and impressions of the individual Members. They think however that they are justified in stating that all those who accompanied them were of a similar opinion.

This opinion has since been adopted by the competent authorities. Flat Island has been definitively adopted as a permanent Quarantine Station, the necessary funds have been voted to form a complete Establishment there; they amount to a considerable sum, but it was necessary to shrink from no expence for an object of such great and vital importance to the Colony. In taking the measures indispensable for preserving it from a return of the calamities by which this Island was so cruelly afflicted, due regard was also to be had to the condition and well being of those whom it may be necessary temporarily to sequester for the advantage of all.

The report which the Committee have already made respecting the question of establishing the Quarantine Station at Rodrigues, and that of another Committee appointed to reply to the despatches of the Indian Government on the subject of the suspension of Immigration, contain information on this subject which it is unnecessary to repeat here.

QUARANTINE LAWS.

The subject of the Quarantine has also been taken into consideration,

and the Laws have been revised and modified; so that it is not necessary for this Committee to take up that question.

There are however some particulars which they consider of the highest importance, and which they wish particularly to recommend.

SANITARY STATE OF THE IMMIGRANTS UPON THEIR EMBARKATION,
AND EUROPEAN DOCTORS.

These constitute the two points mentioned by Dr. Finnimore and the Chief Medical Officer, namely: the attention that should be paid to the sanitary condition of the Immigrants upon their embarkation in India, and the substitution of European for Native Doctors.

The Committee have already had occasion to say that it results from the Inquiry that the Coolies are very imperfectly inspected when they embark in India; the information collected by Dr. Finnimore during his sojourn on Gabriel Island, has convinced him that, notwithstanding certificates to the effect, that the state of health of the Emigrants was satisfactory, disease broke out the very day of their departure.

The truth is, that since the first invasion of the Island by Cholera in 1819, more than 30 years elapsed without there being the slightest ground to suspect the existence of Cholera here; that for more than 20 years, after the first introduction of Immigration, Immigration went on increasing and extending, without there being the least cause for apprehension on the score of Cholera. It is only within the few last years that the country has been several times menaced, and twice ravaged by this terrible malady.

Is it not fair, therefore, to conclude that this can only arise from a relaxation in the measures previously taken to ascertain the state of health of the men upon their departure from India.

It would be very desirable to carry out the recommendation of the Chief Medical Officer to procure European Surgeons in the service of the Mauritius Government for Immigration purposes. The Committee coincide in this opinion. All those who have been in a position to judge of the matter, declare that they cannot implicitly rely upon the statements of the Native Doctors, and that there can be no doubt of the advantages that would result from employing European Medical Men. It would be an additional expence, but this would certainly be amply compensated by the good resulting from it.

With the measures that have already been taken, since the terrible trial of 1856, and with those which are to be adopted, there is reason to hope that the dangers to which the Colony has been exposed, and the misfortunes which it has had to deplore will not again occur.

H. KÖENIG,

President.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,
26th May 1857.

DISSENTIENT.

1st. Because,

I cannot admit that which is not proved by the evidence, namely that Cholera existed in the ships *Hyderee* and *Futtay Mombarrack*, when at the Bell Buoy, previously to being sent to Gabriel Island ^a.

2nd. Because

I cannot admit the inference that must necessarily be drawn from the assertion that there existed, at the time, no permanent Quarantine Establishment. The evidence shews ^b that there was a permanent quarantine Master: and that hands to man a Guard boat could be had in "5 minutes"—(namely, the crews of the mud boat, and steam tug, besides other men about the Harbour Master's Office; these men were employed in the first instance, until others could be procured.)—A boat only, it seems, was wanting, but, with a Harbour full of ships, and the Port full of boats, it is extraordinary that the want should ever have been felt; although it would appear, from Mr. Spencers' evidence ^c, that (probably on one solitary occasion,) a boat could not be procured for 48 hours.

3d. Because,

Both English and French writers shew that little is known about Cholera ^d either as regards the causes of its outbreak ^e, the mode of its propagation ^f, the mode of its seizing its victim ^g, the mode of its treatment ^h, or the reason of its disappearance ⁱ; that, those facts and circumstances which appear perfectly to explain its appearance in some instances, have been wholly wanting in others ^j.

Thus the English ^k School of Medicine says "any exclusive theory of the mode of propagation of the Cholera cannot be maintained."

The French say ^l "quant aux causes du Choléra Épidémique, il est bon de rappeler que les maladies pestilentiennes ne sont pas de celles dont il soit donné à l'homme de pénétrer l'origine, ni de connaître le principe."

^a Evidence p. p. 4, 5, 9, 17, 24.—Appendix to Evidence p. p. 71, 72, 73, 80, 118.

^b Evidence p. 38.

^c Evidence p. 38.

^d Report Royal Coll. Phys. London, p. p. 4, 5, 102, 103.

^e Dictionnaire d'Hygiène Publique by Tardieu, p. 299. Report Roy. Coll. Phys. London, p. p. 4, 5.—Report of Committee for Scientific Inquiries, p. 66.

^f Report Royal Coll. Phys. London, p. p. 3, 4, 190, 193, 219.

^g Report Committee for Scientific Inquiries in relation to Cholera 1854, published in 1855, p. 55.

^h Report of Committee for Scientific Inquiries, p. 53.

ⁱ Report Royal College Phys. London, p. p. 28, 42.

^j Report Royal College Phys. London, p. p. 23, 24, 39, 84.—Report Committee for Scientific Inquiries, p. 51.

^k Report Royal College Phys. London, p. p. 3, 4, 102, 103.

^l Dictionnaire d'Hygiène Publique by Tardieu, p. 299.

4th. Because,

As long as the cases of the District of Soho ^m in London; of Paris ⁿ, and the Mediterranean Squadron ^o, remain upon record, I must believe that which is reiterated by the London College of Physicians ^p, namely, that there is some "unknown agency" which produces Cholera independent of human intercourse; and therefore, I cannot admit that the case of Alfred or, the other cases of communication with the two Islands, can be assumed to be the cause of the outbreak of Cholera in Port Louis.

Still less can I admit it when I see the case of the large Towns of England^q, of which Leeds was one, surrounded by Cholera, with constant communication by day and night with the places infected, yet, entirely escaping infection; and Versailles escaping infection, in the year 1834 altho the afflicted Parisians crowded into it.

5th. Because,

There are numerous other similar instances ^r, to wit, the escape from the disease, of Nurses and Laundresses, in Cholera Hospitals. The Escape of the troops in the Island of St. Helena, in the River St. Laurence, although there was constant communication between that Island and Montreal, when Cholera was raging in that city, and carrying off the inhabitants by thousands.

6th. Because,

Within our own experience also, we have seen that human intercourse may take place without propagating the disease^s; for the crews of the Coolie ships with Cholera on board, seldom take it; the crew of the *Sultany* did not take it ^t.

The attendants in the Civil Hospital of Port Louis, with 495 cases and 316 deaths, did not take it ^u.

And neither the Civil Commissary nor any of his clerks, took it, although the Office was full, from morning to night, of persons immediately from the houses of the dead. Therefore I cannot believe that the cases of communication between Flat and Gabriel Islands, and the main Land, were the cause of the outbreak of Cholera in Port Louis.

^m Report Medical Council to Sir Benjamin Hall, 1854, p. 7.

ⁿ Report Royal College Phys. London, p. 47.

^o Ditto p. 193.

^p Ditto p. p. 23, 24, 39, 41, 42, 87, 99, 218 & others.

^q Report Medical Council to Sir Benjamin Hall, 1854, p. 7.—Ditto p. p. 23, 24, 30, 41, 42, 87, 99, 218 & others.—Report Medical Council to Sir Benjamin Hall, 1854, p. 7.

^r Report Royal College Phys. London, p. 109.

^s Report Royal College Phys. London, p. p. 175, 184.

^t Evidence, p. 11.

^u Ditto ditto.

^v Appendix to Evidence p. 110, and Table at p. 108 ditto.

7th. Because,

Convinced as this Committee shews itself, that the Cholera of 1856 is to be attributed solely to the communication with the two Quarantine Islands, the whole population of the Island is equally convinced, that, on a former occasion, it was to be attributed to the arrival of the *Topaze*, in 1819^v, whilst, if we are to believe the Official Records of the time, the disease existed before the arrival of the *Topaze*.

8th. Because,

I think it probable that, simultaneously with the existence of Cholera at Gabriel Island there may have been agencies at work, in the atmosphere over the main Land, which produced Cholera^w. An absence of the purifying properties of Ozone might be sufficient, according to English and German authorities^x. The Royal College of Physicians of London^y tell us, that, in the cases of 68 Towns, Districts, or Institutions, in England, the testimony is "complete and convincing" that the general association of Cholera, when rife, is with impurities in the atmosphere; and that when the atmosphere is pure the disease does not extend; or, is feeble^z.

9th. Because,

In like manner with the affection of Cholera, in man, we have seen in this island, diseases of Trees^{aa}, and Plants^{bb}, which have never been explained; and in Europe, the disease of the Potato, and of the Vine, whilst, at this moment, (April) we read of a disease carrying off the cattle in Australia, the Cape, South America and Europe, which, like the Cholera, is an universal scourge, beyond human explanation; even a long immunity from disease, as is said to have been the case with this Island, with respect to Cholera, namely, from the years 1819 to 1854, does not prove anything. In the West Indies the intervals between the yellow fever Epidemic are sometimes very considerable: During my residence in Trinidad of 20 years, it only appeared there, once; and when it did appear it was attributed to its right cause, namely, a visitation of Providence which no man could explain.

But the word of God tells us that Wars, Famine and Pestilence, come from the Almighty, to punish us for our Sins, and to warn us to be ready to appear before His Judgment Seat and altho I admit that it is right to take every possible precaution, I have little faith in the virtue of quarantines, or any other human precaution.

Signed PHILIP D. SOUPER,

26th May 1857.

^v Report of Committee Med. Officers p. 145 of Documents appended to Mr. Souper's motion. See Appendix to Report.

^w Report Royal College Phys. London, p. p. 87, 195.

^x Ditto ditto p. p. 41, 99.—Report of Committee for Scientific Inquiries, 1854, published 1855, p. 31.

^y Report Royal College Phys. London, p. 19.

^z Ditto p. p. 87, 169.

^{aa} Sang Dragon.

^{bb} Sugar cane.

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RAPPORT

DU COMITÉ

NOMMÉ PAR

SON EXCELLENCE LE GOUVERNEUR,

POUR RECHERCHER ET CONSTATER

La cause ou les causes probables de la dernière invasion du Choléra

à l'Ile Maurice en Mars 1856.



PUBLIÉ PAR H. PLAIDEAU, IMPRIMEUR DU GOUVERNEMENT, RUE BOURBON,
PORT-LOUIS.

MDCCCLVII.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

PASSED IN MAY 1866

LONDON:
PRINTED BY
HARRISON AND SONS, ST. MARTIN'S LANE.

1866

1866

COMITÉ

COMPOSÉ DE MEMBRES DU CONSEIL
DU GOUVERNEMENT.

MEMBRES OFFICIELS :

Messieurs S. J. DOUGLAS, *Procureur et Avocat Général par intérim.*

— W. W. R. KERR, *Auditeur Général.*

— P. D. SOUPER, *Collecteur des Revenus Intérieurs par intérim.*

MEMBRES INOFFICIELS :

Messieurs W. FORSTER,

— H. LEMIERE,

— G. FROPIER,

— C. W. WIEHE,

— Capitaine W. W. WEST, mort du Choléra, remplacé par

— H. KÖNIG.

SECRÉTAIRE : M. E. NOLIN, employé au Bureau du Procureur Général.

Le Comité a nommé l'Honorable H. KÖNIG, *Président.*

COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

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PRODUITS DEVANT LE COMITÉ.

Plusieurs Témoins, entr'autres l'Honorable Secrétaire Colonial, le Capitaine de Port, le Médecin en Chef et le Docteur Labat, ont produit dans le cours et à l'appui de leurs dépositions divers documents qui sont annexés au présent Rapport.

Deux autres témoins, le Docteur Finnimore et le Docteur Ford, ont bien voulu, sur l'invitation du Comité, lui fournir des observations, et un Rapport sur divers points relatifs à des questions qui se sont présentées. Le Comité les recommande particulièrement.

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R A P P O R T

DU COMITÉ

NOMMÉ PAR SON EXCELLENCE LE GOUVERNEUR

POUR RECHERCHER ET CONSTATER

La cause ou les causes probables de la dernière invasion du Choléra à l'Ile Maurice, et aussi pour examiner s'il ne serait pas expédient de faire quelques changements aux Lois de Quarantaine actuellement en vigueur.

INTRODUCTION

ET OBSERVATIONS PRÉLIMINAIRES.

La mission que le Comité a été appelé à remplir était de la plus haute importance. La Colonie venait d'être visitée pour la seconde fois, en moins de deux ans, par le terrible fléau qui a laissé des traces si nombreuses et si profondes de douleur et de deuil. Le Gouvernement n'a pas pu rester indifférent à une si grande calamité. Il a dû chercher à en connaître les causes et à en prévenir le retour. Son Excellence le Gouverneur a nommé à cet effet un Comité parmi les membres de son Conseil, auxquels il a confié la mission de rechercher et de constater la cause ou les causes probables de l'introduction du Choléra, et aussi d'examiner s'il n'y aurait pas lieu de faire quelques modifications aux Lois sur la Quarantaine.

Le plan et le système que le Comité a adoptés dans l'enquête à laquelle il a procédé, ont été de suivre autant qu'il a été possible, l'ordre naturel des faits depuis le moment de l'arrivée des deux navires *Hyderee* et *Futtay Mombarrack*, jusqu'à l'époque de l'apparition du Choléra au Port-Louis.

Ainsi il a recherché et constaté ce qui a eu lieu lors de l'arrivée des deux navires et de leur mise en quarantaine provisoire ; leur état sanitaire, les mesures qui ont été ordonnées et qui ont été prises pendant la quarantaine temporaire ;

L'envoi des navires et le débarquement des hommes à la Station de Quarantaine définitive ;

L'état et la condition des hommes pendant la quarantaine, leur traitement, leur nourriture, leur logement, leur approvisionnement, &c., &c., &c. ;

Les moyens employés et les mesures prises pour les communications qu'il était indispensable d'avoir avec le lieu de Quarantaine ;

Les mesures et les précautions prises pour empêcher que ces communications ne fussent dangereuses et pour prévenir les communications illicites ;

Les circonstances qui ont précédé, accompagné et suivi la mort du nommé Alfred, l'un des hommes employés à bord des bateaux servant aux communications avec la Station de la Quarantaine, et mort du Choléra à bord du Steamer *Victoria* au retour d'un de ses voyages.

L'Enquête a suivi la marche que les événements avaient eux-mêmes suivie. Les témoins ont été appelés et examinés, autant qu'il a été possible, dans l'ordre qui vient d'être indiqué. Plusieurs ont été rappelés et entendus à diverses reprises selon que les circonstances l'ont exigé ou qu'on l'a cru utile.

Dans la vue de rendre l'opération moins longue, on n'a pas en général rapporté les questions posées aux témoins, et l'on n'a consigné que leurs réponses. On remarquera cependant plusieurs fois dans le cours de l'Enquête, les questions et les réponses également transcrites. C'est lorsque les témoins l'ont demandé eux-mêmes pour certaines questions qu'ils considéraient comme assez importantes ou assez délicates pour qu'ils désirassent qu'il fût constaté que leurs déclarations étaient nécessairement amenées par les demandes qui leur étaient adressées.

Les témoins entendus sont au nombre de vingt-six. Leurs dépositions ont été recueillies avec tout le soin possible, et avec tous les développements et toute l'extension dont elles étaient susceptibles. Plusieurs contiennent des détails d'une grande importance, et méritent d'être examinées avec la plus sérieuse attention.

Le Comité a cru inutile d'appeler dans l'Enquête les Immigrants mêmes des deux navires mis en Quarantaine.

1o. Parcequ'ils n'eussent pu lui donner aucun renseignement sur l'objet principal de sa mission qui était de savoir comment le Choléra avait éclaté à Maurice.

2o. Parce qu'en ce qui concernait leur sort à l'Îlot Gabriel, tous renseignements avaient été obtenus, ainsi qu'on le verra par l'Enquête des témoins les plus compétents et des documents les plus incontestables.

Ces documents et d'autres aussi très importants qui ont été produits devant le Comité, fournissent d'utiles renseignements.

Le tout est annexé au présent Rapport dans lequel le Comité se bornera à retracer, à classer et à résumer les preuves qu'il a recueillies, et les faits et circonstances qu'il a constatés.

Il ne les accompagnera que de peu d'observations et de commentaires. Les faits parleront assez d'eux-mêmes. L'impartialité la plus scrupuleuse a dû être la base de l'investigation et de l'opinion du Comité, et les conclusions du Rapport ont dû être amenées par la force des choses, et les déductions et les conséquences inévitables des faits acquis.

Le Comité n'aura pas à émettre d'opinion scientifique, cela n'entre pas dans l'objet de sa mission et il serait d'ailleurs parfaitement incompétent pour le faire. Les hommes les plus éminents dans la science sont encore divisés au sujet de la maladie dont l'invasion a donné lieu à l'opération du Comité. Les contagionistes et les non-contagionistes soutiennent leurs doctrines contraires de transmission ou de non-transmission, avec des convictions que l'expérience ne paraît pas avoir encore confirmées ou détruites, mais il est probable que ce qui s'est passé à Maurice ne sera pas sans influence sur l'opinion des hommes de l'art.

Après ces courtes observations, nous entrons en matière :

ARRIVÉE DES DEUX NAVIRES,

"HYDEREE" ET "FUTTAY MOMBARRACK"

AU PORT-LOUIS.

Les deux navires *Hyderree* et *Futtay Mombarrack* arrivèrent de Calcutta, au mois de Janvier 1856 à peu de jours d'intervalle, le cinq et le huit, ils avaient à bord, l'un 272 et l'autre 380 Coolies.

Sur la déclaration de l'état sanitaire de chacun de ces navires, l'officier de santé, le Docteur Ford, ordonna qu'ils fussent mis en quarantaine provisoire, ils restèrent en conséquence mouillés au Pavillon.

Le Comité Général de Santé se réunit le sept Janvier, et sur la connaissance qu'il prit du Rapport de l'Officier de Santé, il résolut que l'*Hyderree* après avoir été préalablement soumis à la fumigation serait admis à la libre pratique, le lendemain, pourvu qu'après inspection par l'Officier Médical compétent, l'état sanitaire des gens du bord fût rapporté être satisfaisant

Le Comité de Santé se réunit de nouveau le neuf Janvier ; le *Futtay Mombarrack* était arrivé la veille. Il fut ordonné que les deux navires seraient retenus en quarantaine d'observation jusqu'au Samedi 12, et que le Comité de Santé se réunirait de nouveau pour prendre en considération le nouveau Rapport que l'Officier de Santé serait requis de faire.

Enfin, à la réunion du 13, il fut ordonné que les deux navires, après avoir été pourvus d'eau, seraient envoyés à l'Îlot Gabriel, pour y débarquer leurs Coolies qui y seraient mis en quarantaine.

Le *Futtay Mombarrack* fut expédié, le premier pour l'Îlot Gabriel, le jour même de la décision du Comité. Il débarqua ses Coolies le 14, revint mouiller au Pavillon le 15, et fut admis à la libre pratique le 17.

L'*Hyderee* partit le 15 ayant été retenu pour prendre de l'eau et des provisions. Il débarqua ses Coolies le 17 et le 18, revint mouiller au Pavillon le 19, et fut admis à la libre pratique le 24.

Après cet exposé rapide et succinct des faits relatifs aux deux navires, il est nécessaire d'entrer dans un examen plus complet de toutes les circonstances, et de tous les détails qui se rattachent à cette première période.

MISE EN QUARANTAINE PROVISOIRE.

L'*Hyderee* à son arrivée avait été placé en quarantaine provisoire en raison du grand nombre de cas de maladie qui s'étaient manifestés pendant le voyage. Le capitaine fit mention de fièvre, diarrhée et dyssentérie, et nia le Choléra qu'il déclara ne pas exister à bord. Il y avait eu vingt-un décès ; l'Officier de Santé observa que plusieurs des cas avaient eu une issue fatale dans un court espace de temps, et dans son Rapport au Médecin en Chef pour l'information du Comité de Santé, il avait appelé l'attention du Médecin en Chef sur ces particularités. (Dép. du Dr. Ford appx. pages 3 et 4.)

Le procès-verbal de la délibération du Comité de Santé du sept Janvier est conçu en ces termes :

“ Lu une lettre datée du cinq Janvier de l'Officier de Santé, faisant le Rapport de l'arrivée le même jour du navire *Hyderee* de Calcutta avec 272 Coolies, et de sa mise en quarantaine temporaire, attendu que l'état sanitaire de ses passagers était peu satisfaisant. Le Comité a examiné le journal médical du navire, duquel il résulte que l'*Hyderee* a quitté Calcutta le vingt Novembre ; que deux cas de Choléra ont eu lieu pendant que le navire était encore dans la Rivière “ Hoogly ”, que l'un a eu une issue fatale le vingt deux Novembre, que l'autre malade se rétablit, mais mourut plus tard de la dyssentérie, qu'il y avait en totalité pendant le voyage 57 cas de maladie et 20 décès parmi lesquels un de Choléra, un de Dyssentérie, trois de Diarrhée, trois de Fièvre, deux d'accidents (noyé et brûlé) et sept enfants, qu'enfin il y a actuellement sur la liste cinquante malades, de fièvre, tombés malades depuis le vingt-six du mois dernier.” (Appx. page 70).

Il était impossible que le Comité d'Enquête ne fût pas frappé de la décision du Comité de Santé rendue sur cet exposé, et admettant la possibilité que la libre pratique fût donnée à l'*Hyderee* dès le lendemain, malgré la restriction indiquée d'une nouvelle visite et d'un nouveau Rapport. L'état sanitaire du navire tel qu'il résultait des documents soumis à son inspection et sur lequel l'Officier de Santé avait appelé l'attention du Médecin en Chef, était dans l'opinion du Comité d'Enquête de nature à écarter toute hésitation et à faire ordonner la mise en quarantaine définitive immédiate.

Le Dr. Ford a déclaré devant le Comité d'Enquête "qu'il avait toujours été d'opinion que le navire devait en définitive être envoyé à la Station de Quarantaine et qu'il n'était pas possible de l'admettre à la libre pratique, le lendemain de la réunion du Comité de Santé, c'est-à-dire le huit Janvier que la fièvre qui existait alors à bord, lui paraissait d'une nature très sévère." (Appx. page 4.)

Le Comité lui a alors posé la question suivante :

"Si vous aviez été membre du Comité Général de Santé, auriez vous contemplé la possibilité d'admettre, le sept Janvier, le navire *Hyderee* et ses passagers à la libre pratique, avec la connaissance personnelle que vous aviez de leur état sanitaire."

La réponse a été : "Décidément non."

Une autre question lui ayant été posée en ces termes :

"Si vous aviez été membre du Comité Général de Santé, ayant devant vous, relativement à l'état sanitaire de l'*Hyderee* les mêmes informations qu'il avait lors de sa réunion du sept Janvier, auriez-vous concouru avec lui dans sa résolution de cette date ?"

Le Docteur Ford a répondu :

"En raison de plusieurs cas de fièvre qui avaient eu lieu si récemment, je n'aurais pas été disposé à concourir avec le Comité de Santé."

"J'ai visité le navire le cinq et le huit Janvier et d'après ma connaissance, résultant de ces deux visites, de l'état du navire, j'aurais été disposé à l'envoyer à la Station de Quarantaine immédiatement."

"Dans quelques uns de mes Rapports, je me suis hasardé à donner mon opinion, mais on m'a donné à entendre qu'il n'était pas de mon devoir de donner mon opinion sur les mesures à prendre à l'égard des navires mis en quarantaine." (Appx. page 4.)

Après la première décision du Comité du sept Janvier, il ne fut encore question, le neuf, que de quarantaine provisoire tant pour l'*Hyderee* que pour

le *Futtay Mombarrack* arrivé dans l'intervalle. Le procès-verbal est ainsi conçu :

“ Lu une lettre, datée du neuf Janvier, de l'Officier de Santé, rapportant qu'il s'est rendu le long du bord de l'*Hydere* pour lui donner la libre pratique, mais qu'il a hésité à le faire, trouvant que quatre nouveaux cas de fièvre avaient éclaté parmi les Coolies depuis hier.”

“ Lu aussi une autre lettre de la même date, établissant que le *Futtay Mombarrack* arrivé la nuit dernière de Calcutta avec 380 Coolies a été mis en quarantaine en raison du mauvais état de santé de ses passagers.”

“ Le journal médical du navire a été examiné et il a été trouvé qu'il y avait eu pendant le voyage vingt-deux décès, dont neuf étaient des enfants, et qu'il y avait eu treize cas de fièvre depuis le trente du mois dernier (8 jours).”

“ En conséquence il a été résolu que l'*Hydere* et le *Futtay Mombarrack* seraient retenus en quarantaine d'observation jusqu'au Samedi 12, jour auquel le Comité se réunirait de nouveau pour prendre en considération un nouveau Rapport que l'Officier de Santé serait requis de faire de l'état sanitaire des gens à bord.” (Appx. page 70)

MISE EN QUARANTAINE DÉFINITIVE.

Enfin la quarantaine définitive fut ordonnée le treize Janvier. Le procès-verbal de ce jour est important à connaître :

“ Lu le nouveau Rapport daté du 12 courant de l'Officier de Santé sur l'état sanitaire des Coolies à bord de l'*Hydere* et du *Futtay Mombarrack* d'où résultent les faits suivants :”

“ A bord de l'*Hydere* trois nouveaux cas de fièvre et quatre morts ont eu lieu depuis le neuf courant. De ces derniers cas, deux ont eu lieu hier, un de fièvre, et un de dysenterie, un ce matin de fièvre, et aussi un enfant de marasme ; le Docteur natif du bord est aussi sur la liste des malades.

“ Le capitaine s'attend à plus de cas de décès. Il a de l'eau seulement pour jusqu'à demain, et de plus il n'a personne qui puisse donner convenablement des soins aux malades.”

“ A bord du *Futtay Mombarrack*, six nouveaux cas de maladie ont eu lieu depuis le neuf du courant, dont trois de fièvre, deux de dysenterie et un de diarrhée ; plus deux cas de mort, l'un de dysenterie et l'autre de diarrhée. Ce dernier après seulement douze heures de maladie.”

“ Le capitaine de ce navire rapporte qu'une panique s'est emparée des Coolies qui commencent à refuser de prendre les remèdes et qu'il n'a de l'eau à bord que pour quatre ou cinq jours.”

“ Lu aussi une lettre du capitaine du *Futtay Mombarrack*, rapportant que l'état sanitaire des Coolies ne s'améliore pas, et qu'à moins qu'ils soient débarqués promptement, la maladie augmentera.”

“ Il est résolu que l'*Hydere* et le *Futtay Mombarrack*, après avoir été approvisionnés d'eau, recevront l'ordre de se rendre à l'Îlot Gabriel, pour y débarquer leurs Coolies, et les y mettre en quarantaine.” (Appx. page 71.)

Ce n'est donc qu'après beaucoup d'hésitation et de temporisation que le Comité de Santé s'est décidé à ordonner la mise en quarantaine définitive.

Il n'était pas possible d'admettre qu'il en fût autrement, d'après les termes du dernier procès-verbal ; mais il résulte aussi de ceux qui précèdent, qu'il aurait dû prendre cette décision plus tôt et qu'il a prolongé trop longtemps la quarantaine provisoire. Il n'en est pas résulté de conséquences immédiatement funestes pour le pays, mais le danger n'en a pas moins existé ; et il est permis d'espérer que les passagers eux-mêmes eussent dû bénéficier d'une plus prompte décision.

A quoi peut-on attribuer cette hésitation, cette temporisation du Comité Général de Santé ?

On en trouvera l'explication dans les déclarations de ses propres membres, le Secrétaire Colonial, Président du Comité, et le Médecin en Chef. Des trois autres membres du Comité de Santé, l'un, l'Honorable Bedingfeld, n'avait pas assisté aux deux premières séances du sept et du neuf Janvier. Les deux autres membres, le Docteur Dauban et le Maire du Port-Louis, ont succombé dans l'épidémie ;

C'est pour ces raisons que le Secrétaire Colonial et le Médecin en Chef ont seuls été entendus. Dans leur opinion, la composition même du Comité Général de Santé, est ou était du moins vicieuse ; ses pouvoirs et ses attributions étaient mal définis ; les fonctions de ses membres n'étaient pas bien déterminées il était incertain comment et par qui ses décisions devaient être exécutées. La responsabilité était repoussée et rejetée des uns sur les autres, et il devait en résulter de très grandes irrégularités.

La composition du Comité de Santé a été modifiée depuis. On y a appelé avec beaucoup de raison l'Officier de Santé, dont la présence devait être fort utile, si elle n'était indispensable ; mais le changement n'est peut-être pas assez radical, et il y aurait à examiner s'il n'y aurait pas lieu à modifier encore la composition et l'organisation de ce Comité.

L'Honorable Secrétaire Colonial, Président du Comité Général de Santé s'est exprimé en ces termes :

“ Il semble que c'est une question très naturelle qui m'est posée, comme Président du Comité Général de Santé, quelles étaient les raisons qui ont induit le Comité de Santé dans sa réunion du sept Janvier, à en venir à la résolution que l'*Hydere* serait admis à la libre pratique le jour suivant. Le fait est que la question de libre pratique dans cette circonstance, étant une

“ question purement médicale, j'ai laissé aux membres de la profession faisant partie du Comité à la décider.”

“ J'ai examiné plus ou moins les documents mis devant le Comité, mais cet examen, je l'ai laissé aussi en grande partie aux membres de la profession.”

“ Je me suis certainement formé une opinion sur l'état sanitaire de l'*Hyderee*, mais en formant cette opinion, j'ai été principalement guidé par celle des membres médicaux du Comité.”

“ En réponse à votre question, je n'ai aucune hésitation à déclarer que j'ai été frappé du nombre de morts et de la quantité de malades à bord de l'*Hyderee*, comme étant considérables d'une manière peu ordinaire.”

“ L'opinion des membres médicaux du Comité était qu'il n'y avait pas de danger à admettre le navire à la libre pratique ; mais je demande la permission de faire observer que dans mon opinion il est absurde de soumettre de pareilles questions de pratique à un corps composé de cinq membres dont trois sont étrangers à la profession.”

A la question de savoir s'il avait jamais eu occasion d'exprimer officiellement cette opinion, le témoin a répondu :

“ Non : ce n'est que récemment lorsque je me suis trouvé placé au Comité de Santé, à l'égard de semblables questions, dans une très fausse position, que j'ai acquis la conviction de l'impropriété de soumettre de telles questions à un corps ainsi composé.”

“ Indépendamment de l'opinion des membres médicaux du Comité, je suis guidé en quelque sorte pour former mon opinion, par les preuves écrites mises devant le Comité ; mais j'hésiterais à différer d'opinion avec les membres de la profession sur une question médicale comme celle-ci. Et j'ajouterai même que quelle que puisse être mon opinion, je n'entraînerai pas la décision du Comité par mon vote en opposition à l'opinion de ses membres médicaux.” (Appx. page 15.)

Ce sont des sentiments et des scrupules très louables peut-être ; mais que peut-on attendre d'un corps dont le Président a la franchise de les exprimer ainsi ?

Le Médecin en Chef de son côté a déclaré :

“ Qu'il ne se rappelait pas qu'aucune mesure ait été prise par le Comité de Santé pour empêcher la communication avec les deux navires *Hyderee* et *Futtay Mombarrack*, que ce soin est laissé au Capitaine de Port dont le devoir est de s'occuper de toutes les matières maritimes.”

“ Que le Comité ne prend aucune disposition pour empêcher la communi-

“ cation avec les navires en quarantaine, qu'il ordonne la quarantaine, mais
 “ qu'il laisse au Capitaine de Port à la mettre à exécution.”

“ Que dans son opinion, le Comité de Santé est un corps délibératif et non
 “ exécutif.”

“ Que les décisions du Comité de Santé sont exécutées, partie par lui-
 “ même, Médecin en Chef, et partie par le Capitaine de Port ; que ce dernier
 “ reçoit ses instructions du Secrétaire Colonial, de même que le Médecin en
 “ Chef qui de son côté donne ses instructions au Médecin de Pratique.”
 (Appx. page 9.)

Le Comité d'Enquête a cru devoir établir une sorte de confrontation entre
 le Secrétaire Colonial et le Médecin en Chef, et il a soumis à ce dernier
 quelques unes des déclarations du premier, afin qu'il eût à s'expliquer à
 leur égard.

Ainsi il a fait connaître au Médecin en Chef, que le Secrétaire Colonial,
 à la question : “ Si pendant la quarantaine provisoire de l'*Hydere* et du
Futtay Mombarrack des précautions suffisantes avaient été prises pour em-
 pêcher la communication ; ” avait répondu : “ Je n'ai connaissance de rien
 de contraire, je ne suis pas chargé de ces matières, soit comme Président du
 Comité de Santé, soit comme Secrétaire Colonial. Les lois et les règlements
 sur la quarantaine pourvoient à ce que les précautions soient prises, et le
 Médecin en Chef est le Surintendant de la Quarantaine, et a le contrôle de la
 pratique.”

Il a été demandé au Médecin en Chef s'il partageait cette opinion.

Sa réponse a été : “ Je ne la partage pas entièrement. Les devoirs du Su-
 “ rintendant de la Quarantaine n'ont jamais été convenablement définis. Pra-
 “ tiquement parlant, le Capitaine de Port est toujours chargé de mettre un ba-
 “ teau de garde à un navire en quarantaine.”

Une autre question lui ayant été posée : “ Considérez-vous comme partie
 de votre devoir de donner des instructions au Capitaine de Port au sujet de
 la surveillance des navires en quarantaine temporaire ; ”

Sa réponse a été : “ Je crois que c'est une partie de mon devoir, et lorsque
 “ je trouve une occasion de le faire, je le fais sans doute, mais ainsi que je l'ai
 “ déjà déclaré, mes devoirs n'ont jamais été convenablement définis à cet
 “ égard. Par l'Ordonnance No. 37 de 1851, Art. 2, ce devoir appartient au
 “ Comité de Santé.” (Appx. page 47.)

Quant aux mesures nécessaires pour empêcher la communication, le Ca-
 pitaine de Port a déclaré que :

“ Le Département du Port est dépourvu d'un établissement permanent
 “ pour la quarantaine. Lorsqu'un navire est mis en quarantaine, la première
 “ chose que l'on fait est de chercher à se procurer et à louer un bateau de

“garde, et des hommes pour le monter, que le temps qui peut s'écouler avant
 “qu'on ait pu se les procurer est plus ou moins long selon les circonstances,
 “qu'il n'y a pas de doute que pendant la nuit la communication peut avoir
 “lieu avec les navires mouillés au Pavillon à moins qu'il n'y ait des bateaux
 “de garde pour l'empêcher, et que la présence de deux gardes à bord du na-
 “vire serait le moyen le plus efficace d'empêcher la communication.” (Appx.
 page 6.)

De tout ce conflit d'opinions, d'incertitudes, d'inexécution, ou d'exécution incomplète ou incertaine des mesures nécessaires, il est résulté certainement de grands dangers pendant le séjour des deux navires devant le Port. Ils n'ont été suivis encore pour cette fois d'aucune conséquence directement funeste. Mais le Comité d'Enquête n'a pas moins dû en faire l'objet de son investigation, afin de faire ressortir les vices du système de quarantaine existant alors.

RETOUR DES DEUX NAVIRES

DE L'ÎLOT GABRIEL,

ET DE LEUR ADMISSION A LA LIBRE PRATIQUE.

Pour compléter ce qui est relatif aux deux navires, il reste quelques mots à dire au sujet de leur retour après le débarquement à l'Îlot Gabriel.

Ils furent admis à la libre pratique, comme on l'a déjà vu, l'un deux jours, et l'autre cinq jours après leur retour.

Le Comité de Santé n'a pris aucune part à cette admission, à laquelle il n'aurait certainement pas dû cependant rester étranger. Le Médecin en Chef déclare “que le Secrétaire Colonial et lui se consultèrent à cet égard ;
 “qu'ils convinrent que les navires seraient admis parcequ'il n'y avait aucune
 “preuve de l'existence de maladie contagieuse à bord, et qu'il n'y avait au-
 “cune autorité du Comité de Santé de les retenir en quarantaine.”

Puis il ajoute “qu'il eût été plus régulier d'avoir comme de coutume un
 “ordre du Comité de Santé, pour admettre ces navires à la libre pratique, et
 “qu'il ne s'est pas adressé au Comité dans cette circonstance pour le motif
 “qui vient d'être donné plus haut. Que, si le Comité de Santé, de son côté,
 “n'avait donné aucun ordre, il ne sait pas pourquoi, mais qu'il croit que c'est
 “parce qu'on l'avait oublié.”

Il déclare en outre “que lorsqu'il avait admis le *Futtay Mombarrack* à la
 “libre pratique, il n'avait pas connaissance des deux cas de Choléra de l'Îlot
 “Gabriel, dont le Rapport lui a été fait le même jour, et que s'il les avait
 “connus il n'aurait pas admis le navire.” (Appx. page 11.)

Le Secrétaire Colonial déclare “qu'il ne se rappelle rien quant à la dé-

“ charge du *Futtay Mombarrack* de la quarantaine, mais que quant à l'*Hydere*, la pratique lui fut donnée le 24 Janvier, par ordre du Médecin en Chef avec le consentement du Gouverneur sur une application du Médecin en Chef du 23, dans laquelle il déclare que l'équipage de l'*Hydere* était alors en parfait état de santé.”

“ Que le Comité de Santé n'avait pas été consulté, mais qu'il ne pensait pas qu'il fût du tout nécessaire de lui référer la question. Le Comité n'ayant pas demandé que cela fût fait, et le Médecin en Chef, qu'il considère comme entièrement compétent pour accorder la décharge, n'ayant pas demandé non plus qu'il en fût référé au Comité de Santé.” (Appx. page 16.)

Il ne paraît pas nécessaire de pousser plus loin ces citations. Les dépositions du Secrétaire Colonial et du Médecin en Chef méritent d'être lues dans leur ensemble, d'être comparées et méditées. Elles établissent clairement que la nature de leurs fonctions respectives étant mal définie, et en l'absence de règlements convenables, ils ne connaissaient ni l'un ni l'autre l'étendue exacte de leurs devoirs et de leur responsabilité. Système toujours dangereux, et auquel il est toujours indispensable de porter un prompt remède.

C'est d'après tous les faits et toutes les circonstances qui ont été rapportés que le Comité d'Enquête est arrivé à la conclusion que non seulement le Comité de Santé a dû ordonner définitivement, comme il l'a fait, la mise en quarantaine des deux navires *Hydere* et *Futtay Mombarrack*, mais qu'il aurait dû même le faire plus tôt et ne pas prolonger la quarantaine provisoire au risque des plus grands dangers.

JUSTIFICATION

ET NÉCESSITÉ DE LA MISE EN QUARANTAINE.

Cependant on pourra dire peut-être qu'il n'y avait pas de maladie contagieuse, que le Choléra n'existait à bord d'aucun des deux navires, qu'il n'y en avait pas eu pendant la traversée; que seulement deux cas avaient eu lieu à bord de l'*Hydere*, mais lorsqu'il était encore dans la Rivière Hoogly, et que le Choléra n'avait éclaté qu'à l'arrivée à l'Ilôt Gabriel, et parmi les hommes du *Futtay Mombarrack*.

Une foule de preuves ont déjà justifié que la mise en quarantaine était indispensable. En outre de ce qui a déjà été constaté, on peut présenter beaucoup d'autres considérations.

Le Dr. Ford, le Médecin en Chef, le Président du Comité de Santé, se sont accordés à déclarer que l'état sanitaire des deux navires était très mauvais.

L'Officier de Santé a exprimé une opinion très positive à cet égard, le

Médecin en Chef a déclaré que l'état sanitaire du *Futtay Mombarrack* était mauvais, mais pas aussi mauvais peut-être que celui de l'*Hyderee*. (Appx. page 10.)

Le Comité de Santé a constaté qu'il y avait eu à bord de l'*Hyderee* 20 décès sur 57 cas de maladie et qu'il y avait encore sur la liste 50 malades qui l'étaient devenus depuis le 26 du mois précédent, c'est-à-dire depuis dix jours.

Les Procès-Verbaux du Comité de Santé ne disent rien du nombre de cas de maladie pendant la traversée à bord du *Futtay Mombarrack*, mais une note écrite au crayon sur le Rapport du navire à son arrivée porte soixante-douze cas. (Appx. page 73.)

Le Président du Comité de Santé et le Médecin en Chef déclarent "qu'en général on ne pouvait avoir que peu de confiance dans les déclarations des Capitaines et des Docteurs natifs, et qu'on ne pouvait pas dans tous les cas, s'en rapporter entièrement à leurs rapports et déclarations." (Appx. pages 10 et 14.)

Leurs doutes à cet égard sont certainement bien confirmés par les nouveaux et nombreux cas de maladie et de mort à bord des deux navires *Hyderee* et *Futtay Mombarrack* pendant qu'ils étaient mouillés au Pavillon.

M. Franck, Officier du Département du Port, chargé d'aller le long du bord des navires arrivant, déclare que "d'après sa propre expérience des Docteurs natifs des navires venant de l'Inde, il a une très pauvre opinion de leur véracité." (Appx. page 6.)

Le Dr. Finnimore déclare, "que d'après les informations qu'il a recueillies, il a raison de croire que l'inspection médicale des Immigrants avant leur embarquement dans l'Inde est très imparfaitement faite; que l'état sanitaire des Immigrants à bord de l'*Hyderee* et du *Futtay Mombarrack* avait été déclaré être parfaitement bon, tandis que dans le cas du *Futtay Mombarrack* dans l'après-midi du jour même de l'embarquement, pas moins de six hommes et une femme, cette dernière un véritable squelette, se déclarèrent malades de dyssenterie et de diarrhée, que cela est établi par la déclaration du Docteur natif en charge du *Futtay Mombarrack*; qu'il n'a pu rien obtenir à l'égard de l'*Hyderee* dont le Docteur était mort avant l'arrivée du Dr. Finnimore à l'Ilot Gabriel." (Appx. page 25.)

Quant à l'apparition du Choléra à l'arrivée des hommes à l'Ilot Gabriel, le Médecin en Chef déclare que "son opinion est qu'il n'y avait pas eu de Choléra à bord des deux navires pendant le voyage, à l'exception des deux cas à bord de l'*Hyderee* dans la Rivière Hoogly."

"Qu'il considère que le cours de la maladie à l'Ilot Gabriel indique que c'était une fraîche épidémie d'une récente origine. Qu'autant qu'il peut en juger d'après sa propre opinion, il ne pense pas que la maladie ait pu s'en-

“ gendrer d'elle-même, mais qu'elle a pu être occasionnée par le débarquement et l'usage d'objets infectés ; que la maladie s'est déclarée trop tôt pour s'être engendrée d'elle-même. ” (Appx. pages 11 et 12.)

Le Docteur Finnimore, de son côté, déclare “ qu'il est disposé à croire qu'il n'y avait aucun cas de Choléra à bord de l'*Hyderee* et du *Futtay Mombarrack* jusqu'à leur arrivée au Pavillon. Qu'il en est venu à cette conclusion d'après le Rapport du Docteur natif du *Futtay Mombarrack* dont il a une très haute opinion, mais qu'il ne peut rien dire à l'égard de l'*Hyderee* dont le Docteur était mort ainsi qu'il a été dit plus haut. ”

“ Qu'il ne peut rendre compte de l'invasion du Choléra à l'Ilot Gabriel, qu'il pense que des cas ont eu lieu à bord au Pavillon, avant le départ des navires pour la Station de Quarantaine. ” (Appx. page 26.)

Ceci est bien important, et en présence de cas de dyssenterie et de diarrhée ayant eu une issue fatale, dans un si court espace de temps, quelques heures seulement, il est bien difficile de ne pas admettre l'existence du Choléra, surtout si l'on se rappelle qu'il n'y a à cet égard que les déclarations des Capitaines et des Docteurs natifs, auxquelles on s'accorde à attacher peu de confiance.

Il est pourtant vrai de dire que le Dr. Finnimore dans le Rapport qu'il a envoyé plus tard au Comité ne répète pas ce qu'il a dit dans sa déposition. Il dit dans son Rapport : (Appx. page 118.)

“ Il paraîtrait aussi qu'aucun cas de Choléra n'eut lieu à bord d'aucun de ces deux navires pendant qu'ils étaient au Pavillon. ” C'est peut-être une contradiction qui aura échappé à sa sagacité et à ses souvenirs, mais sa déposition, que d'ailleurs il ne rétracte pas, n'en reste pas moins.

Le Dr. Rogers et le Dr. Hardie, membres d'un Comité auquel les journaux ou Rapports des deux navires ont été soumis, ont tous deux pensé que ces Rapports étaient suspects.

Il est vrai que le Médecin en Chef, troisième membre de ce Comité, fait observer qu'il faut se rappeler qu'ils parlaient après l'événement, c'est-à-dire, lorsque le Choléra avait déjà éclaté au Port-Louis, et aussi qu'ils n'ont pas tenu compte de ce que parmi les morts il y avait plusieurs enfants, ce qui fait une différence essentielle. (Appx. pages 10 et 11.)

Quoi qu'il en soit, toutes les preuves établissent que l'état sanitaire des deux navires était mauvais ; que les cas de maladies et de morts ont été incomparablement considérables : que le Choléra a pu exister pendant la traversée, malgré les déclarations contraires des gens du bord puisqu'ils ne méritent pas une entière confiance, (ils admettent au moins deux cas au départ de l'*Hyderee*) et qu'il a dû exister à bord pendant que les navires étaient au Pavillon, selon l'opinion très digne de confiance d'un Médecin éclairé.

Puisque le Choléra a éclaté immédiatement à l'arrivée à l'Ilot Gabriel, il

est permis de dire qu'il est certain et, qu'en tous cas au moins, il est probable qu'il aurait de même immédiatement éclaté au Port-Louis si les Immigrants y avaient été alors admis.

Il y éclatait moins de deux mois après, et l'opinion du Comité a été qu'il ressortait de tous les faits, de toutes les circonstances, et de toutes les preuves recueillies à l'Enquête qu'il y avait été introduit et communiqué de l'Ilot Gabriel, où il a éclaté dès l'arrivée du *Futtay Mombarrack*.

Cette opinion n'a pas été formée par des faits isolés d'une communication directe et personnelle, mais par la réunion et l'ensemble de circonstances et de fautes fatalement accumulées, et qui devaient amener de funestes résultats.

C'est une pénible tâche pour le Comité d'entrer dans l'examen de ces circonstances, et des faits qui caractérisent cette déplorable époque. Mais c'est un devoir impérieux que le Comité a à remplir envers lui-même, envers le Gouvernement, envers la société toute entière.

Les faits constatés par l'Enquête révèlent beaucoup d'irrégularités et d'imprévoyance. Ils constatent aussi dans quelques cas, quelques causes, si non de justification, au moins d'excuse, et ils seront une terrible leçon qui empêchera que le pays ait désormais à déplorer de semblables malheurs.

APPARITION DU CHOLÉRA

A L'ILOT GABRIEL.

On a déjà dit que le *Futtay Mombarrack* débarquait ses hommes à l'Ilot Gabriel le 14 Janvier; le même jour le Steamer *Lord Fitzroy Somerset* y était expédié avec des provisions et ayant à bord le Dr. Finlay pour prendre charge des hommes mis en quarantaine.

Le Dr. Finlay débarqua dans la soirée à l'Ile Plate, et se rendit le lendemain matin, 15, à l'Ilot Gabriel.

Le 17, il fit son Rapport au Médecin en Chef à qui il fit connaître qu'à son arrivée, il y avait sur l'Ilot Gabriel 396 Indiens, sur lesquels il y avait eu deux cas de Choléra et trente-trois cas de Fièvre, plus trois de Dyssenterie, que les deux cas de Choléra avaient eu une issue fatale. (Appx. page 74.)

RAPPORT DU MÉDECIN EN CHEF.

Le Médecin en Chef fit lui-même son Rapport officiel au Secrétaire Colonial, le 25; il l'avait prévenu privément la veille. (Appx. page 79.)

Il est difficile d'expliquer le délai qui s'est écoulé depuis le 17 jusqu'au 24, dates de ces deux Rapports du Dr. Finlay et du Médecin en Chef. Le retard est-il dans l'envoi ou la réception du premier, ou dans la présentation du second ?

Le Médecin en Chef dans sa déposition a déclaré, ainsi qu'on l'a déjà vu plus haut, "que lorsque la libre pratique fut autorisée par lui, le 17, au *Futtay Mombarrack*, revenu le 15 de l'Ilot Gabriel, il n'avait pas connaissance des "deux cas de Choléra dont le Rapport lui avait été fait le même jour, et que "s'il avait reçu le Rapport du Dr. Finlay avant cette admission, il ne l'aurait "pas permise."

"Que l'*Hyderee*, revenu le 19, fut retenu en quarantaine plus longtemps que "le *Futtay Mombarrack*, c'est-à-dire jusqu'au 24, parceque dans ces entrefai- "tes il avait reçu le Rapport des deux cas de Choléra à l'Ilot Gabriel." (Appx. page 11.)

Plus tard, dans une déposition ultérieure, le Médecin en Chef a déclaré "qu'il ne pouvait pas dire à quelle date il avait reçu la lettre du Dr. Finlay, "l'informant qu'à son arrivée à la Station de Quarantaine, il avait trouvé "deux hommes atteints du Choléra ; que cela peut avoir été le 19."

"Qu'il ne se rappelle pas quand il a reçu la lettre du Dr. Finlay, mais "qu'autant qu'il peut s'en souvenir, il fit son Rapport au Secrétaire Colo- "nial, aussitôt la réception de cette lettre." (Appx. page 48.)

Il est certainement très regrettable qu'on n'ait pas sur un fait aussi grave, d'indication et de déclaration plus précises. Il est néanmoins facile d'arri- ver à un résultat positif: le Médecin en Chef, tout en déclarant ne pas se rappeler quand il a reçu la lettre du Dr. Finlay, croit que cela peut avoir été le 19. C'est en effet le 19 que l'*Hyderee* est revenu mouiller au Pavillon, et il a pu, il a dû même porter la lettre du Dr. Finlay du 17, si elle n'était pas arrivée plus tôt. Elle pouvait avoir été expédiée par un des bateaux du Con- tracteur. Le Steamer qui avait été la première fois à l'Ilot Gabriel le 14, en était revenu le 15, mais il y était retourné le 20 et était revenu le même jour. (Appx. page 83.)

Il avait porté la lettre du Dr. Finlay si elle n'avait pas déjà été expédiée. Toujours est-il que le Médecin en Chef déclare que l'*Hyderee*, arrivé le 19, a été retenu en quarantaine plus longtemps que le *Futtay Mombarrack*, par- cequ'il avait reçu dans l'intervalle le Rapport des deux cas de Choléra à l'Ilot Gabriel, et il l'a nécessairement reçu avant le 24, puisque la quarantaine prolongée de l'*Hyderee* a été levée le 24.

Le Dr. Finlay déclare, qu'en réponse à sa lettre, il fut requis de faire con- naître quels étaient les symptômes qui l'avaient induit à penser que c'était le Choléra, et qu'il avait répondu que ces symptômes étaient ceux du Cho- léra Asiatique. (Appx. page 31.)

Le Médecin en Chef avait-il attendu un nouveau Rapport du Dr. Finlay pour faire le sien ?

Quoi qu'il en soit le Rapport du Médecin en Chef porte que plusieurs cas de Choléra avaient éclaté à l'Ilot Gabriel parmi les Immigrants débarqués du *Futtay Mombarrack* et de l'*Hydere*. (Appx. page 79.)

C'était donc d'après un second Rapport venu de l'Ilot Gabriel, car le premier du 17, ne parle que de deux cas du *Futtay Mombarrack* et ne fait pas mention de l'*Hydere* et de plusieurs cas.

MISE EN QUARANTAINE DE L'ILE PLATE ET DE L'ILLOT GABRIEL.

Sur ce Rapport du Médecin en Chef, une Proclamation fut immédiatement préparée le 24, ordonnant la mise en quarantaine de l'Ile Plate et de l'Ilot Gabriel.

INSTRUCTIONS DE SON EXCELLENCE LE GOUVERNEUR.

L'original de cette Proclamation est accompagné d'une note de Son Excellence le Gouverneur, écrite instantanément et conçue en ces termes :

“ J'approuve entièrement la publication de cette Proclamation. Les mesures les plus rigoureuses doivent être adoptées pour empêcher la communication des bateaux de pêche avec les îles. La Police de l'Ilot Gabriel a nécessairement reçu pour instructions d'empêcher le départ de toute personne qui y débarquerait. La même précaution doit être prise pour l'Ile Plate. Je présume, de ce que le Dr. Finlay ne demande pas plus d'assistance médicale, ou de remèdes, qu'ils ne sont pas nécessaires ; mais si la maladie continue à augmenter, un autre Médecin doit être envoyé.” (Appx. page 80.)

Ces instructions furent transmises le même jour par le Secrétaire Colonial au Surintendant de la Police. (Appx. page 81.) Et le Comité qui a beaucoup à blâmer, ne peut s'empêcher de faire remarquer ce qu'il y avait de sage dans ces mesures qui eussent pu produire les meilleurs effets, si elles eussent été strictement exécutées.

Il n'en fut pas ainsi :

SIGNAL DE LA QUARANTAINE ARBORÉ.

Ce ne fut que 15 jours après, le 8 ou le 10 Février, le 8 d'après le Dr. Finimore, (Appx. page 91) le 10 d'après le Capitaine de Port. (Appx. page 90) que le signal de la quarantaine, le Pavillon jaune, fut arboré.

COMMUNICATIONS ILLÉGALES.

Dans l'intervalle, des communications pouvaient avoir eu lieu, et avaient en effet eu lieu. La preuve n'en résulte pas seulement de l'Enquête faite par

le Comité, elles avaient déjà été constatées par une autre enquête faite par des officiers du Gouvernement spécialement nommés à cet effet, le Collecteur des Douanes, le Protecteur des Immigrants et le Capitaine de Port. Ils en ont fait leur Rapport sous la date du 24 Mars. Il est annexé au présent Rapport. (Appx. page 89.)

Les faits qu'établit ce Rapport et qui ont été reproduits devant le Comité d'Enquête, sont d'après les dépositions de MM. Clément, capitaine, R. Harrison, Ingénieur, Johnson, lieutenant du *Victoria*, W. Harrison, Ingénieur de la Curemole et Victor Autard, contracteur pour l'approvisionnement des îles, que le 6 Février, le Steamer *Victoria* étant venu à l'Îlot Gabriel avec des provisions, M. Creed, le gardien du Phare, M. Spencer, le second Assistant et M. Smith, chargé des prisonniers, vinrent de l'Île Plate à bord et y restèrent une heure.

Qu'aucune de ces personnes n'avait la moindre idée que la quarantaine s'étendît à l'Île Plate avec laquelle la communication avait toujours été libre, que le Pavillon jaune n'y avait pas été arboré, et qu'il ne l'avait été qu'à l'Îlot Gabriel. Que dans la soirée, après l'ouvrage terminé, M. Victor Autard descendit à terre avec ses hommes à l'Île Plate et y resta jusqu'à 10 heures, que M. Smith chargé des prisonniers à l'Île Plate renvoya, le 7, dans le bateau du contracteur deux hommes d'un mauvais caractère, qui furent débarqués au Port-Louis et envoyés à la Police. Que le 10, un ouvrier se trouvant malade quitta l'Île Plate, débarqua à la Grand' Baie, dans le bateau de M. Lecacheur, vint au Port-Louis, et reçut ses gages au Département de l'Ingénieur Civil. Que dans la matinée du 10, lorsque la *Victoria* était de nouveau à l'Île Plate, un bateau appartenant à Augustine Gateau, vint de la Pointe aux Piments ayant à bord Madame Snelling, la femme de l'assistant gardien du Phare, qui venait rejoindre son mari, ne sachant rien de la quarantaine. Elle fut débarquée à l'Île Plate et y resta. Le bateau aida à débarquer les provisions, et retourna dans la soirée à la terre ferme.

Qu'il n'y eut ce jour-là aucune communication quelconque entre les gens de l'Île Plate et l'équipage du *Victoria* et les hommes du contracteur. Que le Pavillon de quarantaine y était arboré aussi bien qu'à l'Îlot Gabriel et que les précautions ordinaires étaient observées pour empêcher toute communication (Appx. page 89.)

Tous ces faits ont été confirmés dans l'Enquête par les dépositions de M. Victor Autard, contracteur pour le service de la quarantaine et de MM. Hippolyte et Arthidor Bellerose, patrons de ses bateaux. (Appx. p. 40 à 44.) M. Autard ajoute "qu'il a vu les hommes de l'équipage du bateau à "bord duquel était venue, le 8 Février, Madame Snelling la femme de "l'assistant gardien du Phare, porter ses paquets jusqu'au Phare, qu'à leur "retour il les employa à débarquer les provisions, et qu'il demanda leur "assistance parcequ'il n'avait qu'un seul bateau ce jour-là."

M. Clément, commandant du Steamer en confirmant aussi les mêmes faits, a déclaré "que quant à ce qui le concerne, il était tout-à-fait ignorant "du fait que l'Île Plate était en quarantaine, et qu'à l'égard des personnes "qui y résidaient il était parfaitement sûr qu'elles l'ignoraient aussi, et que "ce ne fut qu'après le troisième voyage, lorsqu'il prit avec lui le Pavillon

“ de quarantaine que ces personnes eurent connaissance que l’Ile était en
 “ quarantaine,

“ Que le 12 Février, le Dr. Clerihew, l’accompagna à la Station de Quarantaine, mais qu’ils ne purent communiquer en raison du mauvais temps, et que ce fut en cette occasion que le Médecin en Chef l’informa que l’Ile Plate était en quarantaine, que jusqu’alors il n’avait reçu aucune instruction à l’égard de l’Ile Plate, et que la Proclamation qui mettait les îles en quarantaine, n’avait jamais été portée à sa connaissance.” (Appx page 36.)

M. Spencer, l’Assistant Capitaine de Port a déclaré “ qu’il ne sait pas quand les deux îles ont été mises en quarantaine. Qu’à cette époque, aucun ordre ne fut donné, à sa connaissance dans le Département du Port, portant que les îles étaient mises en quarantaine, mais qu’il suppose qu’elles ont dû l’être, lorsque les deux navires y ont débarqué leurs hommes, qu’il se rappelle qu’il vint à sa connaissance vers le 13 ou le 14 Février, qu’une Proclamation était sortie, mettant l’une des îles ou les deux en quarantaine, mais qu’il n’est pas bien sûr si c’étaient les deux. (Appx. page 39.)

MISE EN QUARANTAINE DE L’ILE PLATE IGNORÉE.

On ignorait donc partout jusqu’au 10 Février, malgré la Proclamation du 24 Janvier, que l’Ile Plate était en quarantaine aussi bien que l’Ilot Gabriel. On l’ignorait même dans les Bureaux Officiels au Port-Louis où on recevait à la Police et au Département de l’Ingénieur Civil des prisonniers et des ouvriers venant de la Station de Quarantaine. Et cependant les plus grands dangers pouvaient résulter de cette ignorance, puisque des communications régulières avaient journallement lieu pour le transport de l’eau, puisque des communications irrégulières pouvaient exister d’après tous les témoignages recueillis, puisque, dès le 12, la femme du Directeur du Phare succombait à une maladie que tout porte à croire avoir été une attaque de Choléra. Qui doit encore répondre de cette négligence. ?

Ici se reproduisent encore les différences d’opinion entre le Secrétaire Colonial, Président du Comité de Santé, et le Médecin en Chef, quant à la question de savoir par qui doivent être exécutées les dispositions relatives à la quarantaine, par qui devaient être données les instructions &c... Système dont la conséquence a été que les instructions n’étaient pas données ou l’étaient tardivement, et que les dispositions n’étaient pas exécutées ou l’étaient incomplètement.

Ainsi on a demandé au Secrétaire Colonial ; en supposant que les parties impliquées par le Rapport du 24 Mars ignorassent que les îles fussent en quarantaine, comment il pouvait rendre compte de l’ignorance de ce fait. Il a répondu : “ Je présume que le Médecin en Chef ne leur a pas fait connaître que l’Ile Plate était en quarantaine aussi bien que l’Ilot Gabriel.” Et il ajoute : “ que c’était le devoir du Médecin en Chef et non du Secrétaire Colonial de faire cette communication.”

“ Que le Gouvernement n'avait donné aucune instruction spéciale de communiquer aux gens de l'Ile Plate qu'ils étaient en quarantaine. Que le Secrétaire Colonial n'est chargé de fournir les Pavillons jaunes, ni d'ordonner qu'ils soient arborés; que toutes communications avec le Lazaret concernant les matières de quarantaine, ne peuvent être régulièrement faites que par l'entremise du Médecin en Chef, que toutes instructions à l'établissement de Quarantaine doivent être données par lui.” (Appx. page 20.)

Le Médecin en Chef de son côté, “ déclare qu'il n'est pas de l'opinion du Secrétaire Colonial, parceque les personnes de l'Ile Plate ne sont pas sous le contrôle du Médecin en Chef, qu'elles dépendent du Département de l'Ingénieur Civil, et que c'était le devoir soit du Pouvoir Exécutif, soit du Comité de Santé de leur faire la communication nécessaire.”

Sur la question qui lui fut posée de qui il considérait que c'était le devoir de fournir les Pavillons jaunes et d'ordonner de les arborer. Il a répondu :

“ Je n'ai jamais été dans l'habitude d'envoyer des pavillons jaunes au précédent Lazaret, et cependant ils étaient toujours fournis. Je n'en ai pas envoyé à la nouvelle station de quarantaine dans la dernière occasion. Je ne puis pas dire de qui c'était le devoir de les envoyer.” (Appx. pages 47 et 48.)

Le Capitaine de Port écrivait à la date du 27 Mars 1856 :

“ Un ou deux jours avant que la réquisition fut faite pour les pavillons jaunes, M. Argent, le commis de magasin, les remit lui-même à M. Cummins par qui ils furent donnés au Dr. Clerihew qui les envoya à ce Département pour les transmettre à l'Ile Plate. Ils y furent envoyés le six Février à bord du *Victoria*, mais si quelques instructions les accompagnaient, je ne puis pas le dire. Je n'en ai pas envoyé moi-même. Il paraît qu'ils ne furent pas arborés à l'Ile Plate jusqu'au second voyage du *Victoria*, le 10 Février, mais qui a donné les ordres pour cela, je ne puis pas le dire. Je pensais que le Médecin en Chef avait seul autorité sur le Médecin chargé du Lazaret, et je me suis borné à expédier les provisions qui m'étaient envoyées.” (Appx. page 90.)

MALADIE ET MORTALITÉ A L'ÎLOT GABRIEL.

Après avoir ainsi retracé tout ce qui est relatif aux mesures et aux dispositions concernant la mise en quarantaine, nous arrivons à l'affligeant tableau de ce qui se passait à la station même de quarantaine.

Depuis le Rapport du Dr. Finlay du 17 Janvier, des deux cas de Choléra qu'il avait eus, jusqu'au 24 Janvier, date du Rapport du Médecin en Chef (7 jours) il y avait eu 22 décès de plus.

Depuis le 24 Janvier, jusqu'au 10 Février, jour où le signal de la quarantaine fut arboré (17 jours), il y avait eu encore 53 décès.

Du 10 Février au 26 du même mois, jour de l'arrivée du Dr. Finnimore (16 jours), il y en avait eu 98. Total jusqu'alors 175 en 40 jours.

Depuis l'arrivée du Dr. Finnimore jusqu'au 4 Mai, jour des derniers décès, (la quarantaine a été levée le 12), il y avait eu encore 123 décès de plus en 68 jours, ce qui ferait un total général de 298.

Ces chiffres ne sont pas rigoureusement exacts. Ils sont pris dans l'état général de la mortalité journalière, publié page 123 de l'Appendice, mais le Docteur Finnimore déclare " que cet état n'est qu'approximatif en ce " qui concerne la période précédant son arrivée, et qu'il croit que la mortalité réelle a été de 26 en moins pendant cette période. Le chiffre total " qu'il porte à 271 n'en reste pas moins très-considérable. Ce nombre se " compose de 83 cas de Choléra, 90 de Dyssenterie, 58 de Fièvre, et 32 de " maladies diverses." (Appx. page 124.)

A quelles causes cette effrayante mortalité peut-elle être attribuée ?

Le Comité d'Enquête a dû nécessairement les rechercher.

Les Indiens ont-ils manqué des soins, des logements, des approvisionnements qui leur étaient nécessaires ? L'intensité du mal serait-elle due à l'insalubrité des lieux ?

SALUBRITÉ DE L'ÎLOT GABRIEL.

La salubrité de l'Île Plate n'a jamais été mise en doute, non plus que celle de l'Îlot Gabriel. Le Médecin en Chef a déclaré " qu'il n'avait pas " une expérience suffisante de la localité pour décider la question de savoir " si l'Îlot Gabriel est aussi sain que l'Île Plate ? " (Appx. page 12.)

Mais le Dr. Finnimore déclare " que ces deux Îles sont très-saines, et " que cela a été prouvé dans de précédentes occasions." (Appx. page 26.)

Et William Mason, charpentier, attaché au département de l'Ingénieur Civil, et qui a séjourné dix-huit mois à l'Îlot Gabriel et à l'Île Plate, déclare " que dans son opinion, l'Île Plate et l'Îlot Gabriel sont des places " saines, qu'à l'époque où les Coolies étaient sur l'Îlot Gabriel, le temps " était très-mauvais, et les gens étant sous des voiles ou des prélarcs ce " qui était une couverture très-chaude le jour et très-froide la nuit, cela a " pu contribuer à la grande mortalité, car c'était assez pour rendre une " personne en santé malade."

“ Que le lieu de la quarantaine est si agréable qu'il désirerait y retourner ”

“ Qu'il y avait à une époque jusqu'à 80 personnes à l'Ile Plate, et qu'il n'a jamais vu aucune maladie parmi elles avant la quarantaine.” (Appx. page 56.)

Il résulte d'un état officiel fourni par le Protecteur des Immigrants (Appx. page 107) que dans les années 1850, 1854 et 1855, huit navires ont été envoyés en quarantaine, six à l'Ile Plate et deux à l'Ilot Gabriel, et que les Immigrants débarqués à l'Ilot Gabriel, 428 hommes, femmes et enfants de l'un des navires et 248 de l'autre, se sont parfaitement trouvés du séjour de plus d'un mois qu'ils y ont fait, pendant lequel temps ils n'ont perdu que six personnes sur 676, tandis que pendant le voyage ils en avaient perdu 43. Ces deux navires sont la *Sultana* et le *Progress*.

LOGEMENTS A L'ÎLOT GABRIEL.

Les passagers de ce dernier navire ont quitté le lieu de la quarantaine le 4 Janvier 1856, seulement 10 jours avant l'arrivée de ceux de l'*Hyderee*, et lorsque ceux-ci y sont arrivés le 14, il y avait à l'Ilot Gabriel trois cabanes en bois de 27 pieds sur 17, et en outre les matériaux nécessaires pour en construire trois autres, plus environ trente prélaris de 20 pieds sur 15, 125 poteaux et 100 livres de corde, destinés à construire des tentes au nombre de 30. (Appx page 46)

Le Gouvernement avait pris pour guide dans ces dispositions un Rapport d'un Comité spécialement nommé par Son Excellence le Gouverneur au mois d'Octobre précédent, et qui avait déclaré qu'il existait au Département de l'Ingénieur Civil, 10 prélaris dont 7 en bon état, et 3 ayant besoin de réparations, et que le nombre qu'il était nécessaire d'acheter pour l'emménagement de 500 Coolies était 20 autres neufs de 20 pieds sur 15, plus 125 poteaux et 100 livres de corde pour construire les tentes. (Appx. page 112.)

Ces dispositions n'ont pas été trouvées suffisantes, et plus tard les augmentations nécessaires ont été faites.

Vers le milieu de Février une grande quantité de planches, environ 19,000 pieds ainsi que des pièces de bois furent envoyées par le Steamer à l'Ilot Gabriel, avec huit ouvriers créoles, sous la direction du maître charpentier du Département de l'Ingénieur Civil, M. Mason. Il faut dire à la louange de ces hommes que c'est au plus fort de la maladie qu'ils consentirent à y aller. Une semaine après on avait construit un Hôpital de 40 pieds sur 16, et seize cabanes de 16 pieds. Le nombre en fut encore augmenté ultérieurement et porté à 25. (Appx. pages 46 et 49.)

Si les premières dispositions se sont trouvées insuffisantes, il faut bien le

dire ; l'opinion du Comité est que le nombre de tentes indiqué par le Rapport spécial de 1855 (Octobre) était trop restreint, et n'aurait pas dû être pris pour base des arrangements faits pour la quarantaine des hommes de l'*Hyderee* et du *Futtay Mombarrack* dont le nombre de près de 700 exigeait une augmentation immédiate de logement ; surtout à la veille de la saison pluvieuse. Mais d'un autre côté, il faut tenir compte de la situation particulière dans laquelle on s'est trouvé. On n'était pas préparé à recevoir en même temps deux navires ayant un nombre aussi considérable d'hommes. On a eu bien peu de temps pour se préparer et prendre les mesures et les dispositions nécessaires. L'intempérie de la saison est venue augmenter et compliquer ces premières difficultés, le temps beau au début, est bientôt devenu très mauvais.

L'insuffisance des logements qui ne se serait pas fait sentir, ou qui aurait eu peu d'inconvénients en temps ordinaire est devenue beaucoup plus grave en raison de la rigueur de la saison.

Le Dr. Finnimore déclare " qu'il attribue l'excessive mortalité à l'insuffisance de logement et qu'il n'a aucune hésitation à dire que c'en est la cause principale." (Appx. page 25.) Néanmoins il ajoute : " Qu'il considère comme possible que l'état intérieur de quelques uns des Immigrants les ait rendus plus susceptibles de subir les mauvais effets de cette insuffisance, attendu que d'après les informations qu'il a recueillies, il a toute raison de croire que l'inspection médicale des Immigrants, avant leur embarquement dans l'Inde, est très imparfaitement exécutée."

" Que l'état du temps contribua grandement aussi au progrès de la maladie. Que le temps avait été très mauvais au commencement de la quarantaine, et que pendant une meilleure saison, la mortalité aurait probablement été beaucoup moindre." (Appx. page 25 et 26.)

Il est sans doute à regretter que tous les hommes des deux navires aient été réunis au même lieu de quarantaine. Il eût certainement été bien à désirer, surtout après les deux premiers cas de Choléra qui ont éclaté parmi les hommes du *Futtay Mombarrack*, que ceux de l'*Hyderee* arrivés plus tard, eussent été séparés. C'est aussi l'opinion du Médecin en Chef, mais il a déclaré " qu'on n'avait pas eu les moyens de le faire. Qu'il eût été très difficile de les séparer à l'Îlot Gabriel parcequ'il est peu étendu et qu'on n'avait pas de palissades à sa disposition."

" Qu'il aurait été possible de les séparer en en mettant une partie à l'Île Plate, mais qu'il avait été jugé convenable de conserver l'Île Plate libre de quarantaine pour laisser le contracteur à même de continuer les constructions pour la quarantaine permanente." (Appx. page 12.)

C'était plutôt des travaux du Phare dont on s'occupait alors, et qu'on n'a pas cru devoir suspendre en raison de leur importance pour la navigation.

Il n'est pas hors de propos de rappeler ici qu'à l'Île aux Tonneliers, en tête de la rade du Port-Louis, il y avait eu précédemment un Lazaret établi

à très grands frais, que c'était un établissement complet de quarantaine et qui devait servir, et avait déjà très convenablement servi, pour tous les cas de quarantaine, autres néanmoins que pour le Choléra. Mais que ce premier établissement avait dû être abandonné, parceque le Département Militaire l'avait exigé pour les travaux de fortification qu'il avait à y faire.

APPROVISIONNEMENTS.

Quant aux approvisionnements, des états officiels, fournis par le Commissariat Militaire, ont été produits et sont publiés. (Appx. pages 86 et 87.

Il n'est pas possible de les reproduire ici, on pourra les consulter. Ils constatent une grande quantité de nourriture, de vêtements et d'approvisionnement de toute nature; de sorte qu'il n'est pas possible de supposer que les malades aient éprouvé de privation importante.

Le Secrétaire Colonial déclare (Appx. page 20), " qu'il croit que les hommes en quarantaine n'ont pas toujours été pourvus de ce qui était nécessaire pour leur subsistance, mais que cela n'a pas été la faute du Gouvernement, car pour tout ce qui était jugé nécessaire par le Médecin en Chef, l'autorisation était donnée de fournir immédiatement."

Le Sergent de Police Browne dépose " que les Indiens n'ont jamais manqué de provisions pendant le temps qu'il a été sur l'île, que dans une occasion seulement avant sa maladie. Ils ont manqué d'eau par suite d'un accident, le bateau portant l'eau ayant chaviré en revenant de l'île Plate (Appx. page 57), ce n'est pas à dire qu'ils en aient manqué absolument, ils en ont seulement été à court."

EAU A L'ÎLOT GABRIEL.

Il n'y a pas d'eau à l'Îlot Gabriel, mais on la faisait venir de l'île Plate par un bateau ou une pirogue spécialement destinée à ce service.

Il y a à l'île Plate un puits qui en fournit avec assez d'abondance. Il résulte d'un Rapport Officiel du Major Frome, Ingénieur Civil, " qu'on avait eu antérieurement à en approvisionner mille hommes, et qu'il n'y en avait jamais eu rareté." (Appx. page 95.)

Le sergent Browne ajoute " que la rareté d'eau dura environ deux jours (sa déposition imprimée [Appx. page 57] porte dix jours; mais c'est une faute d'impression, le manuscrit original porte bien deux). Que le lendemain du jour où le bateau avait chaviré, le Steamer avait apporté 59 barriques d'eau du Port-Louis; mais que cette eau était sale et que les Indiens ne voulurent pas la boire. Il fut même difficile d'obtenir d'eux de s'en servir pour cuire leur nourriture; que le jour suivant, la pirogue

“ qui avait chaviré fut relevée, et une provision d'eau fut apportée de l'Ile Plate, que pendant la rareté de l'eau les Indiens passèrent de l'autre côté de l'Ile et se procurèrent de l'eau de pluie dans les creux des rochers.” (Appx. pages 57 et 58.)

REMÈDES.

Les remèdes n'auraient pas été fournis et le “ Comfort ” médical donné d'une manière suffisante et convenable d'après les déclarations du Dr. Finlay, mais le Comité ne pense pas qu'on puisse les admettre comme susceptibles d'offrir toutes les conditions nécessaires pour se former une opinion. Il ne fait d'ailleurs allusion qu'à certains articles qui furent suppléés promptement.

SOINS MÉDICAUX.

LE DOCTEUR FINLAY.

A l'égard des soins médicaux, le Comité regrette d'être obligé de dire qu'ils n'ont pas été dans l'origine, ce qu'ils auraient dû être, et que le Dr. Finlay n'a pas répondu à ce qu'on devait attendre de lui. Son envoi à l'Ilot Gabriel a été un fait déplorable, mais le Médecin en Chef a déclaré que lorsqu'il a été envoyé, on n'aurait pu trouver aucun autre médecin, et que la question était de l'envoyer ou de n'envoyer personne, que d'ailleurs l'éducation et les capacités du Docteur Finlay étaient supérieures à celles des autres personnes qui avaient précédemment été employées au même service. (Appx. page 50.)

Le Médecin en Chef déclare: “ en outre que l'emploi permanent à la quarantaine a été offert à plusieurs praticiens de la Colonie, qui tous l'ont refusé en ajoutant qu'aucun d'eux ne l'accepterait.”

Que l'emploi temporaire ne leur a point été offert parcequ'il était certain qu'aucun ne consentirait à abandonner une pratique régulière pour un emploi de quelques semaines.

Que le Dr. Finnimore n'a pas été envoyé d'abord, parcequ'il appartient à l'État Major Militaire, et n'a pas été à la disposition de l'autorité civile. Que plus tard, en raison de la gravité des circonstances, et du nombre de malades et aussi parceque le Steamer était revenu deux fois sans aucun Rapport du Dr. Finlay, il jugea nécessaire de recommander l'envoi d'un autre Médecin, et que le Major Général accorda l'autorisation d'envoyer le Dr. Finnimore. (Appx. page 50.)

Il est juste de rappeler ici que dès l'origine et par son Memorandum sur la Proclamation du 24 Janvier, Son Excellence le Gouverneur avait déjà recommandé l'envoi d'un autre Médecin.

Le Médecin en Chef a enfin déclaré, sur une question du Comité à laquelle il considérait n'avoir pas le droit de refuser de répondre qu'il était obligé de dire que d'après l'expérience qu'il avait faite de la manière dont le Dr. Finlay s'était acquitté de ses devoirs, lorsque la Station de Quarantaine était confiée à sa charge, il ne serait pas disposé à le recommander à aucun autre emploi sous l'autorité du Gouvernement. (Appx. page 51.)

William Mason, charpentier attaché au Département de l'Ingénieur Civil, sur la question de savoir " si le Dr. Finlay avait rempli son devoir d'une " manière satisfaisante sous tous les rapports ;" a répondu : " Qu'il ne pensait pas que le Dr. Finlay ait agi comme il le devait. Qu'il l'a vu sous " l'influence de la boisson, non pas une fois ou deux, mais souvent." (Appx. page 56.)

LES DOCTEURS NATIFS.

Des trois Docteurs natifs venus à bord des deux navires *Hyderee* et *Fut-tay Mombarrack*, un mourut quinze jours après l'arrivée à l'Ilot Gabriel, un autre a été malade pendant tout le temps de la quarantaine. (Appx. page 32.) En sorte qu'il n'en resta qu'un seul d'effectif, celui dont le Dr. Finnimore conçut une très haute opinion.

LE DOCTEUR FINNIMORE.

Le Dr. Finnimore arriva à l'Ilot Gabriel le 26 Février, et c'est une grande satisfaction pour le Comité de déclarer que sa conduite est digne des plus grands éloges. Il déclare "qu'il trouva les Coolies dans un état très déplorable, qu'ils souffraient à un très haut degré de maladie et de débilité, qu'ils " étaient imparfaitement logés, c'est-à-dire qu'ils avaient des prélaris sur des " poteaux, mais insuffisants pour leur nombre et leur état de maladie. Qu'il " n'y avait aucune organisation quelconque, et que plusieurs jours s'écoulèrent avant qu'il pût s'assurer du nombre exact d'hommes dans l'île." (Appx. page 24.)

Cependant le zèle, l'activité et le dévouement que déploya le Dr. Finnimore n'apportèrent pas les heureux changements qu'on devait en espérer. Le service fut régularisé et considérablement amélioré, et cependant la maladie continua de sévir dans des proportions qui tendraient beaucoup à ébranler l'opinion que cette grande mortalité avait été due au défaut d'abri ou de soins médicaux. En effet dans les 40 premiers jours, on avait perdu, suivant lui-même environ 150 personnes sur 650, et pendant les 68 jours de son administration on en perdit encore 123 sur 500, bien qu'on n'eut plus affaire au Choléra proprement dit, qui avait cessé dès le lendemain de son arrivée, mais seulement aux fièvres et à la dyssentérie, bien que la saison fût devenue meilleure, et que les hommes fussent amplement fournis de toutes choses et de logements sains et convenables.

En présence de ces faits, de ces résultats, le Comité ne veut pas pallier des fautes d'imprévoyance qui ont dû au moins ajouter aux souffrances des victimes. Mais il se croit fondé à penser que la principale cause de ces déplorables événements est l'état de débilité de ces malheureux à leur départ de Calcutta, débilité telle que 54 d'entre eux avaient succombé avant d'entrer en quarantaine, qu'un très grand nombre avait été malade à bord, et même en arrivant d'après les Rapports des Capitaines ; et que plus des deux tiers étaient en proie à la maladie, le jour de leur débarquement à l'Ilot Gabriel, et que conséquemment en quelque lieu qu'on les eût placés, quelque soins qu'on leur eût donnés, la mortalité eût toujours été sinon aussi considérable, du moins très considérable encore.

Quoiqu'il en soit, le Comité ne peut s'empêcher de rappeler qu'une aussi grande mortalité n'est malheureusement pas sans précédents dans l'histoire de cette funeste maladie, sans qu'on ait pu lui assigner de cause connue.

LE NOMMÉ ALFRED.

Malheureusement le jour même où le Dr. Finnimore arrivait à l'Ilot Gabriel, le Steamer qui l'avait porté, ramenait le nommé " Alfred " qui venait mourir à bord du *Victoria* dans la rade du Port-Louis.

Le Comité a eu à examiner quelles sont les circonstances qui ont pu amener la maladie et la mort de cet homme, l'un de ceux employés à bord des bateaux qui servaient aux communications avec la Station de Quarantaine.

Les communications dont il y a principalement à s'occuper sont celles qui avaient lieu avec Maurice d'où il était nécessaire et indispensable d'avoir de fréquents rapports avec le lieu de la quarantaine.

COMMUNICATIONS ENTRE L'ILE PLATE ET L'ILOT GABRIEL.

Il ne faut cependant pas passer sous silence ce qui concerne les deux îles elles-mêmes, l'une à l'égard de l'autre. Elles ont été déclarées toutes les deux en quarantaine conjointement, et par suite, la communication a été interdite non seulement avec l'une et l'autre, mais aussi de l'une à l'autre.

On a déjà vu que, malgré la Proclamation du 24 Janvier, les gens de l'Ile Plate auraient ignoré ou prétendu ignorer, jusqu'au 10 Février, que l'Ile Plate fût en quarantaine. Lorsque le Pavillon jaune a été arboré, cette ignorance n'a pas pu continuer. Mais il résulte de l'Enquête que les communications sont faciles entre les deux îles, en tout temps par bateau et dans les basses marées à pied. Il en résulte en outre que des communications ont eu lieu en effet d'une île à l'autre, non seulement en raison de la facilité naturelle, mais encore par suite de défaut de surveillance effective et de l'insuffisance des moyens de surveillance.

Les communications légitimes elles-mêmes étaient opérées d'une manière dangereuse. L'eau était envoyée de l'Ile Plate dans des barriques qui étaient débarquées sur le rivage de l'Ilot Gabriel, de là roulées jusqu'au camp par les hommes de l'Ilot, qui les roulaient de nouveau sur le rivage après qu'elles avaient été vidées. De là, elles retournaient à l'Ile Plate après avoir été touchées, maniées par des hommes ayant peut-être la maladie, ou le germe de la maladie, ce qui est considéré comme un moyen susceptible de la transmettre.

Aussi le 12 Février, la femme de M. Creed, le gardien du Phare, était atteinte et mourait après quelques heures de maladie; et d'après les faits constatés devant le Comité, et d'après les symptômes rapportés à deux de ses membres, lors de la visite à l'Ile Plate, tout porte à croire que cette maladie était le Choléra; et c'est un fait digne de remarque que c'est le seul cas qui ait eu lieu à l'Ile Plate.

COMMUNICATIONS DE L'ILE MAURICE AVEC LE LIEU DE LA QUARANTAINE.

Quant aux communications entre les deux îles et Maurice, il ne faut pas perdre de vue la distinction qui existe entre les communications légitimes et indispensables faites avec la prudence, et les précautions nécessaires, (ainsi que Son Excellence le Gouverneur l'avait particulièrement recommandé depuis le commencement. Appx. page 95,) et les communications illégales ou celles imprudentes et dangereuses. Celles des deux dernières catégories doivent être aussi sévèrement prohibées et réprimées que les premières doivent être protégées.

Il faut bien que des communications aient lieu pour procurer aux hommes en quarantaine, tous les approvisionnements, tous les secours, toute l'assistance qui leur sont nécessaires; si c'est un devoir envers la société de prendre toutes les mesures et toutes les précautions possibles pour que la maladie ne puisse pas se communiquer et se répandre, c'est un devoir, non moins sacré envers ceux à qui on est obligé de faire subir une quarantaine, de leur assurer tous les secours et même tout le confort qu'il est possible de leur donner.

Le Steamer ainsi que d'autres bateaux ont dû nécessairement être employés à transporter et à débarquer des approvisionnements de toute nature. Des instructions spéciales ont dû être données, des mesures ont dû être prises pour qu'aucune précaution possible ne fût négligée. Ces instructions et ces mesures étaient-elles suffisantes, ont-elles été convenablement exécutées?

Sans doute l'Enquête et les documents produits établissent que la sollicitude, et les recommandations n'ont pas manqué. Son Excellence le Gouverneur, l'Honorable Secrétaire Colonial, le Médecin en Chef, le Capitaine de Port, ont tous, et chacun dans la sphère de ses pouvoirs et de ses attributions donné toutes les instructions qu'ils avaient jugées nécessaires. (Appx. pages 67, 68, 69, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80.)

Mais il ne suffit pas de donner des instructions quelque précises, quel

qu'étendues qu'elles puissent être, il faut savoir si elles ont été complètes et données en temps utile. C'est surtout leur exécution qu'il importe d'assurer,

MODE DE DÉBARQUEMENT.

Dans le commencement, les objets d'approvisionnement apportés par le Steamer étaient transbordés du Steamer dans les bateaux du contracteur, M. Autard, qui allaient mouiller très près de terre, environ 10 pas, d'où ils étaient pris et portés à têtes d'hommes sur le rivage.

Pendant cette opération, les hommes de l'Ilot étaient tenus éloignés à une certaine distance du lieu de débarquement, mais ils l'avaient occupé peu de temps, peu d'instants peut-être auparavant. Étaient-ils éloignés à une assez grande distance? L'étaient-ils assez promptement et assez à temps pour rendre toute communication impossible entre les hommes du bateau et ceux de l'Ilot?

La distance était de 400 yards d'après le sergent de Police Doran (appx. page 28) de 200 yards d'après le Dr. Finlay (appx. page 33,) comme de l'Hôtel du Gouvernement au Quai, d'après M. Hippolyte Bellerose, l'un des patrons des bateaux du contracteur (appx. page 42.) d'environ un quart de mille, d'après M. Arthidor Bellerose, un autre patron des bateaux (appx. page 43.) Ces deux dernières distances équivalent à environ 400 yards.

Le Comité n'a pu considérer ces indications que comme très approximatives, et très incertaines, il n'a pas été possible de s'assurer de leur exactitude.

Mais le camp lui-même était-il évacué? Les malades, les mourants, pouvaient-ils être éloignés, comme ceux qui se portaient bien? Le camp est au vent du lieu de débarquement, le Dr. Finlay avait déclaré que sa distance était d'environ 1000 yards du rivage, que les anciennes cabanes étaient près du lieu de débarquement, mais que les nouvelles sont plus loin à environ 3000 yards.

Mais après réflexion, le témoin a déclaré " qu'il avait fait une estimation " erronée des distances, que les anciennes cabanes étaient à environ 120 " yards, et les nouvelles à environ 300 du lieu de débarquement. " (L'étendue de l'Ilot Gabriel est de 4000 pieds, 1333 yards en longueur, sur 2300 pieds, 766 yards en largeur.)

VISITE DU DOCTEUR HARDIE.

Il convient de remarquer que le Dr. Hardie, lors de la visite qu'il a faite à l'Ilot Gabriel, le 19 Février, pour faire un rapport demandé par Son Excellence le Gouverneur, déclare " qu'à son arrivée, il avait donné pour

“instructions aux gardes de s'assurer que les Coolies fussent envoyés de l'autre côté de l'Ile avant qu'aucune communication ait lieu.”

“Qu'à son approche de l'Ilot Gabriel, il trouva que le camp était placé près du Sud-Ouest de l'Ile, et à peu près au bout de l'endroit où tous les objets étaient débarqués; que l'odeur de la fumée du camp est très-sensible, et que même l'odeur d'une volaille rôtie était aisément reconnue.” (Appx. page 96). Et aujourd'hui que l'on admet facilement la transmission de ce fléau par l'air, on l'admettra surtout à des distances où des émanations odorantes de cette nature peuvent être facilement perçues.

Il résulte en effet de la déclaration de M. Hardie, que le camp était bien près, et que son opinion était que les hommes n'étaient pas assez éloignés, puisqu'il les avait fait envoyer à une plus grande distance.

Le Dr. Finlay dit à cet égard “qu'il n'a jamais envoyé les Indiens de l'autre côté de l'Ile, mais qu'ils y ont été envoyés contrairement à son désir par ordre du Dr. Hardie, parce qu'il désirait avoir temporairement communication avec l'Ile, et il explique que c'était contrairement à son désir, parce que c'était les exposer à l'extrême ardeur du soleil, tandis que s'ils étaient restés dans leurs cabanes, ils auraient été à couvert.”

“Pour communiquer avec le Dr. Hardie, le Dr. Finlay se rendit sur le rivage, le Dr. Hardie restant dans son bateau, la distance entr'eux étant d'environ deux cents yards.” (Appx. page 34.)

Soit que les Indiens aient été suffisamment éloignés lors des débarquements à une distance de 200 à 400 yards, soit qu'ils eussent dû être envoyés de l'autre côté de l'Ile, conformément à l'opinion du Dr. Hardie, et contrairement à l'opinion du Dr. Finlay, il est certain que la mesure prise par le Dr. Hardie était celle d'où il résultait le moins de danger, et qu'il considérait que la distance habituelle n'était pas suffisante, puisqu'il faisait éloigner les hommes à une distance beaucoup plus considérable.

Mais, dans tous les cas, le Dr. Finlay était dans l'habitude d'envoyer les Indiens, ou de leur permettre d'aller sur le rivage d'où ils s'éloignaient à chaque fois qu'un bateau approchait. Mais les gens du bateau qui allaient à leur tour sur le rivage, foulaient le même sol que venaient d'occuper quelques instants auparavant des hommes qui, s'ils n'étaient pas atteints par la maladie, étaient peut-être au moment de l'être. Il n'était pas impossible qu'ils y trouvassent du linge, des vêtements, des ustensiles, des déjections, des traces quelconques de leur séjour si récent. D'autres communications plus directes pouvaient même avoir lieu. Rien ne garantit qu'elles n'aient pas été possibles. Le nombre des Indiens sur l'Ile était considérable, les hommes qui montaient les bateaux et servaient au débarquement étaient en certain nombre; les marins sont en général hardis, imprudents; la surveillance n'était peut-être pas rigoureusement exercée, les moyens en étaient même très-restreints; dans les commencements, il n'y avait qu'un sergent, trois constables et un pion. Le sergent Browne tomba malade peu de temps après son arrivée. Le 6 Février, six autres constables furent envoyés, et le 19, le sergent Doran et un pion, mais ce ne fut que le 28 Février que furent

envoyés huit autres constables et un sergent intérimaire. (Appx. pages 27, 83, 88.)

Le Dr. Finlay a pu ne pas être bien rigide ni bien scrupuleux, sur les règlements de la quarantaine et sur les communications, car il est allé lui-même dix ou douze fois à l'Ile Plate, soit pour visiter les malades, soit pour ses propres affaires particulières, et cependant la communication de l'Ilot Gabriel à l'Ile Plate était défendue. (Appx. page 33.)

Toutes ces considérations amènent à la conclusion que les hommes des bateaux abordant et débarquant à terre à l'Ilot Gabriel, il y avait danger imminent ou au moins possible de la communication de la maladie.

Mais on dira peut-être qu'il fallait bien débarquer pour porter les objets d'approvisionnement et qu'il n'y avait pas moyen de faire autrement.

Un bateau plat, un chalan ne pouvait-il pas être employé et servir de dépôt aux objets qui y seraient déchargés par les bateaux du Steamer ou du Contracteur, et que les bateaux de l'Ile viendraient prendre à leur tour, quand les premiers se seraient éloignés. Ce chalan pouvait être très-facilement placé à une distance convenable entre les deux Iles.

CHANGEMENT DE MODE DE DÉBARQUEMENT.

Ce moyen bien simple et moins dangereux fut en effet employé, mais bien tard ! Le Capitaine de Port ayant appris qu'il y avait sur les lieux même un bateau plat qui avait été envoyé pour couper le corail dans le récif de la partie du Nord, écrivit au Dr. Finimore de l'employer pour opérer le débarquement comme il vient d'être indiqué plus haut, et qui dès ce moment fut fait ainsi.

Ces instructions furent données le 7 Mars (Appx. p. 69) mais le nommé Alfred avait succombé depuis le 27 Février, et le 17 Mars, le Choléra exerçait ses ravages au Port-Louis !

Le Capitaine Wales a déclaré " qu'il aurait donné cet ordre depuis le commencement, s'il avait connu l'existence de ce bateau, qu'il ignorait, bien qu'il appartint au Gouvernement." (Appx. page 7.)

Le Département du Port, n'en avait-il donc pas d'autre à sa disposition ?

LE NOMME " ALFRED " A BORD DU STEAMER.

A bord d'un des bateaux du Contracteur, M. Autard, était un créole nommé Alfred. Il avait été à tous les voyages à l'Ilot Gabriel, où il était

allé, le 26 Février, pour la dernière fois ; il y avait été plusieurs fois auparavant, le 20 et le 23. (Dépn. du Cap. Wales, page 8). Son emploi était le débarquement des objets d'approvisionnement apportés par le Steamer. Il y était employé le 26 Février comme les précédentes fois.

SA MALADIE.

Il se plaignait d'être déjà malade, lorsqu'il avait, le matin même, quitté le Port-Louis. S'étant trouvé plus malade dans le courant de la journée, il fut mis à bord du Steamer à son retour au Port-Louis, où il arriva dans la soirée. Le mal avait augmenté rapidement, et Alfred succomba dans la nuit du 26 au 27 Février.

"Sa mort à bord du Steamer."

Le Dr. Labat, appelé auprès du malade vers 10 heures et demie du soir, avait constaté tous les symptômes du Choléra. Cependant dès l'arrivée du Steamer, tout l'équipage était descendu, et s'était répandu dans la ville. Le Capitaine du Steamer a déclaré "qu'il n'avait pas eu la moindre idée qu'Alfred fût atteint du Choléra."

"Constation du Choléra."

"Communication avec la terre."

Le lendemain l'équipage fut renvoyé à bord, et le Steamer envoyé en quarantaine en tête de la rade.

"Renvoi de l'équipage à bord le lendemain, et mise en quarantaine."

Quelques jours après, le Choléra éclatait au Port-Louis, pour ne s'arrêter qu'après avoir fait à Maurice des milliers de victimes !

C'est une grande faute et un grand malheur que la communication du Steamer avec la terre, lorsqu'il y avait à bord, en arrivant à 9 heures du soir, un homme tellement malade, qu'il mourut quelques heures plus tard, à une heure du matin.

La raison ou plutôt le prétexte que ni le Capitaine ni personne du bord n'avaient la moindre idée que ce fut le Choléra n'est pas admissible. Il suffisait qu'un homme fût malade pour que le Capitaine s'abstînt de communiquer, et cet homme venait d'un lieu en quarantaine où le Choléra exerçait d'affreux ravages !

Le Capitaine de Port qui ne fut informé de la mort d'Alfred que le lendemain matin, lorsqu'il arriva à son bureau déclare "que le Steamer "aurait dû être mis en quarantaine, arrivant avec un homme malade à bord ; "qu'il pense que le navire arrivant si tard dans la soirée, le Capitaine était "la personne qui devait le mettre en quarantaine, mais que n'étant pas "Médecin, il ne savait pas qu'il eût le Choléra à bord, et que sa raison "pour avoir fait entrer le navire aussi promptement, était de procurer à Alfred une assistance médicale." Triste excuse véritablement, car on pouvait demander un Médecin à terre, sans y laisser débarquer tout l'équipage.

Le Secrétaire Colonial a fait à ce sujet les déclarations suivantes :

“ Je crois qu’immédiatement après que le cas fut rapporté au Médecin en Chef, il prit les mesures nécessaires pour que tous les gens qui avaient débarqué du Steamer fussent renvoyés à bord et le navire mis en quarantaine.”

“ J’ai entendu dire que tout l’équipage était débarqué.”

“ Je n’ai jamais entendu que le Médecin en Chef ait suggéré de mettre le Steamer en quarantaine au retour de ses voyages au Lazaret, et je n’ai pas connaissance qu’aucune autre personne l’ait suggéré. Au contraire, j’ai entendu que le Médecin en Chef a exprimé un grand étonnement, lorsque l’événement est arrivé, qu’il n’ait pas songé plus tôt à mettre le Steamer en quarantaine au retour de ses voyages.”

Bien plus grand a été l’étonnement du Comité d’apprendre que ni le Secrétaire Colonial, ni le Médecin en Chef, ni aucune autre autorité n’ait songé à donner des instructions pour prévenir cette occurrence fatale quand ils savaient tous avec quelle rigueur, la maladie sévissait à l’Ilot Gabriel !

Sur la question comment il avait pu se faire qu’un cas de Choléra existant à bord, on ait permis que l’équipage débarquât, le Secrétaire Colonial a répondu “ que c’était parceque le navire n’avait pas été mis en quarantaine.”

“ Qu’il ne peut pas dire que les gens du bord avaient des doutes que le cas en question fût un cas de Choléra, mais qu’il croit que des doutes sérieux furent exprimés par d’autres à cet égard, par les Docteurs Ford et Montgomery.”

“ Qu’il ne peut pas dire que le malade ait été vu par ces deux Docteurs. Que ces doutes n’ont pas été officiellement exprimés et qu’ils le furent le jour même de la mort de l’homme.”

Il ajoute : “ Je crois que c’était le devoir du Capitaine du Steamer, venant de la Station de Quarantaine avec un homme si malade à son bord de mettre son navire en quarantaine, particulièrement parceque ce Capitaine est un Pilote.”

“ Je n’ai pas connaissance qu’il ait eu aucune instruction spéciale à cet effet ; ce n’est pas mon devoir de donner des instructions aux Pilotes et aux Capitaines des Steamers.”

Sur la question si dans la circonstance particulière de l’existence du Choléra à l’Ilot Gabriel, il n’était pas du devoir du Gouvernement soit de donner lui-même des instructions soit de s’assurer que des instructions étaient données au Capitaine du Steamer pour sa gouverne dans toute occurrence qui pourrait se présenter, de la même nature que celle qui s’est présentée. La réponse a été : “ La loi n’ayant pas prescrit un tel devoir au Gouvernement, je ne puis prendre sur moi de dire, si c’était ou non, son devoir.” (Appx. pages 22 et 22.)

Ces instructions furent néanmoins données, mais après la mort d'Alfred. (Dépn. de l'Assistant du Capitaine de Port, Appx. p. 40.)

Le Comité n'hésite pas à dire que dans son opinion, les instructions les plus formelles devaient être données à cet égard dès l'origine, et que l'on n'aurait pas dû certainement permettre que les bateaux employés au service de la quarantaine entrassent directement et sans aucune précaution dans le Port au retour de leurs voyages au lieu de la quarantaine, où la maladie sévissait d'une manière si terrible. Si les précautions nécessaires avaient été prises, il est probable que Maurice aurait été préservée, et l'on peut dire que la seule précaution vraiment utile a été négligée.

DOUTE SUR L'EXISTENCE DU CHOLÉRA.

Le Secrétaire Colonial a parlé de doutes sur l'existence du Choléra à bord du Steamer, émis par des personnes qui n'avaient pas vu le malade, le Dr. Montgommery et le Dr. Ford.

Le Capitaine de Port qui ne l'avait pas vu non plus, en émet aussi. Il écrivit au Maire du Port-Louis pour lui donner avis de la mort du nommé Alfred, et il termine sa lettre en disant: " Mon opinion est que cette maladie quoique douteuse n'est pas le Choléra, mais j'ai agi dans cette prévision, et j'ai accompli mon devoir comme officier public."

C'est vraisemblablement sous l'impression de ces doutes que fut écrit un document que le Dr. Labat a produit à l'Enquête, et qu'il a voulu retirer depuis, ce que le Comité lui a refusé. (Appx. page 60.)

" En réponse, a-t-il dit, a mon Rapport du cas de Choléra arrivé à bord du Steamer, j'ai reçu du Médecin en Chef copie d'une lettre du Secrétaire Colonial datée du 28 Février, que je produis; je demande à faire observer que dans cette réponse, il m'est reproché d'avoir écrit le mot "Choléra" sur le coin de l'enveloppe de mon Rapport. Je l'ai fait, non pas, avec une mauvaise intention, mais pour appeler l'attention immédiate sur ma communication, que je considérais comme très importante et qui n'était adressée qu'aux autorités publiques." (Appx. page 59)

La lettre adressée par le Secrétaire Colonial au Médecin en Chef et transmise au Dr. Labat pour son information est ainsi conçue :

" J'ai considéré qu'il était de mon devoir de représenter à Son Excellence, la manière très inconsiderée avec laquelle M. Labat, assistant chirurgien de l'Hôpital Civil a jugé à propos de vous faire le Rapport du cas de prétendu Choléra arrivé à bord du Steamer *Victoria*, dans la nuit de Mardi. Son Excellence m'a chargé de vous requérir d'informer M. Labat qu'il a agi avec la plus grande légèreté, en écrivant le mot "Choléra" sur le coin de l'enveloppe contenant son Rapport, et en le réprimandant pour avoir ainsi agi de manière à exciter l'alarme dans le public, vous lui enjoindrez d'être plus prudent et plus circonspect à l'avenir."

Plût à Dieu que le Dr. Labat se fût trompé, et que les faits eussent confirmé les doutes émis plutôt que sa déclaration !

APPARITION DU CHOLÉRA AU PORT-LOUIS.

Mais peu de jours après, une femme de la Rue de La Bourdonnais était atteinte du Choléra, et succombait le 7 Mars. On avait cru d'abord qu'elle était la femme du nommé Alfred, mais il a été reconnu qu'elle lui était étrangère. Presqu'en même temps qu'elle, un employé de l'établissement *La Louisa* au quartier des Pamplemousses fut atteint à son retour d'un voyage au Port-Louis ; il ne succomba pas, mais un domestique envoyé du Port pour le soigner, prit la maladie et mourut.

On a longtemps cru que ces deux cas étaient les premiers, mais il a été rapporté depuis, que deux militaires avaient été atteints, le premier le 3 Mars, un sergent de sapeurs et mineurs, stationné au Fort George, et le second, le lendemain, artilleur de la Citadelle, qui, dit-on, n'avait pas quitté son poste depuis une semaine.

Le Comité qui n'a pas d'opinion scientifique à émettre, et qui a seulement à constater des faits, se bornera à faire observer que ces deux cas sont arrivés 6 et 7 jours après qu'Alfred était mort, et après que tout l'équipage du Steamer s'était répandu dans toute la ville dans la nuit du 26 au 27 Février. C'est aux hommes spécieux à rapprocher ces faits et à en tirer des conclusions.

Le Secrétaire Colonial n'a eu lui-même connaissance de ces deux cas du Fort George, et de la Citadelle que le 19 Avril. Il avait même cru que ces deux hommes avaient succombé, ainsi qu'il l'avait déclaré d'abord devant le Comité, (Appx. p. 23), mais c'était une erreur qu'il a rectifiée plus tard. (Appx. p. 27.)

L'investigation du Comité a dû s'arrêter à ces premiers cas qui constatent l'invasion du Choléra. Le fléau n'a pas tardé à se répandre dans la ville et dans les campagnes, et l'épidémie est devenue générale, mais le Comité n'a pas eu à suivre sa marche, puisqu'il n'a eu à constater que les causes de l'invasion.

Il fera néanmoins observer qu'il n'a éclaté dans les quartiers qu'après avoir paru au Port-Louis ; le Médecin en Chef dans son rapport officiel sur le Choléra de 1856, constate (Appx. page 104), qu'une partie du quartier de la Savanne fut atteinte au commencement même de l'épidémie, la maladie ayant été évidemment introduite dans le quartier par un prisonnier qui venait du Port-Louis vers le 8 Mars, et qui fut pris du Choléra en route. A son arrivée à la Savanne, sa maladie se répandit parmi ceux se trouvant en contact avec lui ou près de lui, il en a été de même pour tous les quartiers de l'Ile, où la maladie a toujours paru sur des personnes venues du Port.

Il y a lieu de faire observer aussi qu'il a été question d'un cas de Choléra antérieur à celui d'Alfred. Le Médecin en Chef a déclaré devant le Comité " que quelques mois avant la mort d'Alfred, et conséquemment " avant l'apparition du Choléra en 1856, il avait vu un cas incontestable " de Choléra sur un soldat qui fut traité par le Dr. Docker du 5e. Régiment, et qu'il enverrait un compte rendu de ce cas. " (Appx. page 48).

C'était un cas isolé, l'homme se rétablit. Le Médecin en Chef a produit au Comité le Rapport du Dr. Docker, qui le qualifie de Choléra Sporadique. ayant eu lieu sur George Jackson, au mois d'Août 1855, plus de six mois avant l'épidémie, qui a commencé en Mars 1856, sur laquelle il n'a pu avoir la moindre influence. (Appx. page 116.)

S'il pouvait exister le plus léger doute dans l'esprit de qui que ce soit, il serait levé par la déclaration de tous les Médecins de l'île, constatant qu'aucun d'eux n'a eu connaissance d'aucun cas antérieur à celui d'Alfred.

Sur la question de savoir, comment le Choléra a été introduit, le Médecin en Chef a déclaré devant le Comité "qu'il ne pouvait offrir aucune opinion relativement à l'apparition du Choléra au Port-Louis, qu'il pense qu'il " est probable qu'il est venu de l'Ilot Gabriel, en raison de la coïncidence de " son existence en ce lieu. Qu'il ne peut pas dire si le Choléra aurait pu venir sans communication directe." (Appx. page 14.)

Le Secrétaire Colonial et le Président du Comité de Santé, sur la question posée comment il pensait que le Choléra avait été transmis du Lazaret à Maurice, a répondu " qu'il était incompetent pour répondre. Que conformément à ses propres vues sur le sujet, il est possible que la maladie ait " été introduit du Lazaret ; qu'il considère que non seulement lui, mais " que tout autre individu, est aussi incompetent, parcequ'il trouve que les " écrivains les plus savants, qui ont écrit sur la matière, diffèrent d'opinion " entre eux." Appx. page 22.)

OPINION DU COMITÉ SUR L'INTRODUCTION DU CHOLÉRA.

Quant au Comité, il a pensé qu'après avoir lu, examiné et médité tout ce qui résulte de l'Enquête et des documents produits, il n'était pas possible d'arriver à une autre conclusion, quant à la cause de l'apparition du Choléra à Maurice, au mois de Mars 1856, qu'il y a été introduit de l'Ilot Gabriel, par le Steamer *Victoria* et le nommé Alfred.

DISSIDENCE D'UN DES MEMBRES DU COMITE.

Cette opinion a été unanime, moins une voix, et le Membre dissident ayant fait une motion, à l'effet de faire joindre au Rapport et aux pièces qui devaient l'accompagner, divers documents qu'il présentait à l'appui de son opinion, le Comité y a consenti, et ces documents feront partie de l'Ap-

pendice pages 127 à 162. Les autres membres ont considéré que les faits prouvés devant le Comité étaient tellement concluants, que ces documents n'ont pas pu ébranler leurs convictions.

MOTIFS DE L'OPINION DU COMITÉ.

Au 26 Février, jour de l'arrivée du Docteur Finnimore à l'Ilot Gabriel, et de la mort d'Alfred, la maladie avait atteint son plus haut degré d'intensité, elle avait déjà commencé la période de décroissance, et a continué à diminuer. Sous l'intelligente et habile direction du Dr. Finnimore, l'ordre a été rétabli, la surveillance augmentée, les moyens de communication améliorés.

Mais jusqu'au 26 Février, la maladie et la mortalité avaient toujours été en augmentant. Il régnait un grand désordre, il y avait absence complète d'organisation, les moyens de surveillance étaient insuffisants, et la surveillance conséquemment incomplète. Les moyens de communication n'offraient pas une garantie suffisante contre les dangers de la communication.

Alfred avait été à tous les voyages des bateaux du Contracteur, à l'Ilot Gabriel, il avait toujours été employé à débarquer les objets d'approvisionnement. Lorsque la maladie était dans sa plus grande violence, au lieu de la quarantaine, il n'avait pas discontinué ses voyages et son emploi. Il était déjà malade lorsqu'il s'y rend pour la dernière fois le 26 Février, mais il y avait été le 20, le 23 ; il en revient le 26 Février au soir plus malade. Il meurt dans la nuit. Il est constaté qu'il meurt du Choléra. Par une fatale imprévoyance et une faute inexcusable, la communication n'est pas interdite. Tout l'équipage descend et se répand dans la ville, ce n'est que le lendemain qu'une quarantaine tardive est ordonnée. Quelques jours après le Choléra éclate au Port-Louis, et se répand bientôt dans toute l'Ile.

Tel est le tableau très-rapide, mais rigoureusement exact de ce qui est relatif à la maladie et à la mort d'Alfred qui a précédé de quelques jours l'apparition du Choléra au Port-Louis.

Avec cet enchaînement de circonstances, après le rapprochement, la combinaison, la coïncidence de tous ces faits, à quelle autre cause serait-il possible de l'attribuer, qu'à l'introduction de l'Ilot Gabriel par la mort d'Alfred à bord du Steamer, à son retour de l'Ilot et par la communication de tous les gens du bord avec la terre.

Ces faits parlent d'eux-mêmes, il n'est pas nécessaire, et il n'est peut-être pas dans les attributions du Comité d'en déduire les conséquences et les conclusions. Le Comité se bornera donc à résumer, quant aux faits principaux, les preuves qu'il a recueillies.

RÉSUMÉ.

Deux navires arrivèrent presque en même temps, ayant eu beaucoup de malades pendant la traversée, en ayant perdu chacun plus de 20, et en ayant encore un grand nombre à bord.

Après beaucoup d'hésitation, après avoir presque permis la libre pratique pour l'un deux, le Comité Général de Santé se décide après 8 jours pour l'un et 5 pour l'autre de quarantaine d'observation, à ordonner la mise en quarantaine définitive.

Pendant la quarantaine provisoire, aucune mesure n'est ordonnée, aucune instruction n'est donnée ni par le Comité de Santé, ni par le Médecin en Chef, ni par le Secrétaire Colonial ; chacun se borne à dire que cela n'entre pas dans ses attributions et à repousser la responsabilité.

Toutes les dispositions sont laissées au Département du Port qui n'a pas d'établissement permanent de quarantaine.

Les précautions prises pour empêcher la communication sont reconnues ne pas être de nature à la rendre impossible.

Les deux navires sont expédiés pour la Station de Quarantaine de l'Ilot Gabriel, sans aucune instruction spéciale et sont admis à la libre pratique, l'un deux jours, l'autre six jours, après leur retour devant le Port-Louis.

Cette admission a lieu sans aucune participation du Comité de Santé, qui aurait oublié de donner des instructions.

Dans l'intervalle des deux admissions, le Rapport est fait que le Choléra a éclaté à l'Ilot Gabriel, cette circonstance qui, aurait empêché l'admission du premier navire, si elle avait été connue alors, retarde de quelques jours celle du second.

Le Rapport du Médecin en Chef de l'invasion du Choléra à la Station de Quarantaine n'est fait que huit jours après celui du Médecin de la Station, et ce retard reste sans explication.

Alors seulement, la Station de Quarantaine est déclarée mise en quarantaine par une Proclamation. Cette proclamation est accompagnée d'instructions immédiates très précises et très sages, particulièrement de Son Excellence le Gouverneur, mais elles ne sont pas strictement exécutées.

Le signal de la quarantaine n'est arboré que quinze jours après, jusqu'alors la communication reste libre avec l'Ile Plate, l'une des îles mises en quarantaine, où la proclamation reste ignorée, de même qu'à des officiers du Département du Port, et du Steamer chargé des communications avec la Station de Quarantaine.

Les hommes envoyés à l'Ilot Gabriel, au mois de Janvier, sont au nombre de près de 700. Les emménagements qui leur sont destinés sont ceux déclarés suffisants au mois d'Octobre pour 500. Ils ne sont augmentés que lorsque la maladie exerce ses ravages.

Les moyens de surveillance, sont très restreints et insuffisants, ils sont aussi plus tard augmentés.

Les moyens de communication pour l'approvisionnement sont dans l'origine imparfaits et dangereux, Ils sont plus tard améliorés, mais plus de deux mois après, et lorsque le Choléra avait déjà éclaté au Port-Louis.

Un bateau plat appartenant au Gouvernement, et qui offrait un moyen de communication plus convenable et moins dangereux, était sur les lieux, où il avait été envoyé précédemment pour des travaux que le Gouvernement y faisait faire, mais son existence était ignorée au Département du Port.

Quant au Steamer et aux autres bateaux chargés des communications avec la Station de Quarantaine où la maladie sévissait avec la plus grande violence, aucune instruction n'est donnée pour aucune précaution à prendre au retour de leurs voyages au lieu infecté.

Personne n'y a même songé ! On n'y songe que lorsqu'un homme meurt du Choléra à bord du Steamer arrivant de la quarantaine.

Le Capitaine, ni personne à bord, n'a même l'idée que cet homme peut-être atteint du Choléra, et l'on revient d'un lieu où il exerce d'affreux ravages et où l'homme a été fréquemment.

Le Capitaine est un des Pilotes attachés au Département du Port, et les Pilotes sont spécialement chargés d'empêcher l'entrée des navires, au moins provisoirement lorsqu'il y a une maladie à bord.

Cependant le Steamer entre jusqu'au quai et tous les gens du bord, au nombre de près de 40, descendent, se répandent dans la ville, et y passent toute la nuit.

Ce n'est que le lendemain, lorsque l'homme a succombé, que les gens du Steamer sont renvoyés à bord, et qu'une quarantaine tardive est ordonnée en tête de la rade.

Quelques jours après, quoique les autorités doutent encore, le Choléra éclate au Port-Louis !

Chacun sait le reste ! Et le Comité a accompli sa tâche !

Il s'est abstenu d'exprimer aucun blâme personnel, parce qu'il a consi-

déré que cela n'entraîne peut-être pas dans ses attributions. Il avait dit au commencement de ce Rapport que les faits parleraient assez d'eux-mêmes, et maintenant qu'ils sont connus, il appartient à l'autorité compétente de se prononcer.

Il y a cependant dans l'Enquête une déposition dont l'occasion ne s'est pas offerte jusqu'à présent de faire mention, mais qui ne doit pas être passée entièrement sous silence. C'est celle de M. Channell, éditeur du journal *Commercial Gazette*. (Appx. page 51)

M. CHANNELL ET LE "COMMERCIAL GAZETTE."

Le Comité a cru devoir appeler M. Channell pour obtenir quelque information sur certains articles publiés dans le journal dont il est l'éditeur.

M. Channell a refusé de répondre aux principales questions qui lui ont été posées, ne se croyant pas obligé en sa qualité d'éditeur de faire connaître ses autorités pour aucune information ou déclaration de faits pouvant paraître dans son journal. Il a persisté dans son refus, malgré les observations du Comité, que s'il se croyait autorisé, comme éditeur, à refuser de répondre, il avait à considérer, si comme citoyen, il ne devait pas faire connaître au Comité, les preuves, qu'il annonçait avoir en sa possession, des faits avancés dans son journal.

M. Channell est cependant entré dans quelques explications sur diverses questions qui lui ont été posées. Le Comité ne croit pas nécessaire de les reproduire, et de les examiner, non plus que celles du Médecin en Chef, et de M. Stair Douglas, premier commis au Département du Secrétaire Colonial, qui ont été aussi entendus sur le même sujet. Mais on trouvera leurs dépositions à l'Appendice pages 51 à 56. Le Comité dira seulement que les faits avancés par le *Commercial Gazette* n'ont pas été confirmés par l'Enquête et les documents produits.

VISITE A L'ILE PLATE.

Il reste à parler d'un autre sujet qui doit trouver ici sa place. C'est la visite à l'Ile Plate.

Le Comité a pensé que, comme complément de la mission dont il avait été chargé, il était désirable qu'il allât faire une inspection de la Station de la Quarantaine. Le Gouvernement a mis à cet effet à sa disposition le Steamer *Victoria*. Plusieurs personnes, entr'autres plusieurs Médecins, ayant témoigné le désir de profiter de l'occasion pour visiter l'Ile Plate, comme station

de quarantaine, le Comité a pensé que dans une circonstance qui intéresse si vivement la Colonie, non seulement, il ne pouvait y avoir aucune objection mais qu'il était au contraire désirable qu'un certain nombre de personnes pussent juger par elles-mêmes de l'état des lieux.

Tous les Membres du Comité avec les personnes qui l'accompagnaient ont visité l'Ile Plate et l'Ilot Gabriel, et ont examiné les lieux avec tout le soin et toute l'attention qu'ils devaient y apporter. Leur examen n'a certainement pas été aussi complet qu'ils auraient pu le désirer puisqu'ils n'y ont passé que quelques heures, mais avec les renseignements qu'ils avaient, et ce qu'ils savaient déjà par l'enquête, ce temps leur a suffi pour se former une opinion.

L'Ile Plate est un lieu parfaitement convenable pour y établir une Station de Quarantaine. Le Comité croit qu'il serait difficile de trouver dans quelque lieu que ce soit une situation qui réunisse autant de conditions favorables.

Son étendue est de 600 arpents environ, elle est formée d'une plaine qui peut avoir environ un mille en toute direction. Elle est abritée d'un côté par une colline en pente douce d'une vingtaine de pieds d'élévation et qui la protège contre les brises de la mer, et elle est terminée de l'autre côté par un monticule d'environ 300 pieds de hauteur où est établi le Phare.

Le sol paraît très-fertile, il est couvert d'herbe d'une très-bonne qualité et d'une riche végétation. C'est un excellent pâturage. On y trouve un certain nombre de cocotiers, des arbustes et quelques arbres ; le tout manque d'entretien, mais il n'est pas douteux qu'avec les soins nécessaires ils y viendraient parfaitement.

Le sol y est d'ailleurs susceptible de toute culture, particulièrement pour ce qui concerne le jardinage et les grains. Ainsi le maïs, les embrevades, le manioc, les pommes de terre, les patates, et toutes sortes de légumes y réussissent parfaitement. Il y aura toujours assez de pâturage pour y entretenir un certain nombre de bestiaux.

On a déjà vu qu'il résulte de documents officiels (Appx. page 95) que le puits pouvait fournir assez d'eau pour mille hommes. Plusieurs des membres du Comité et des autres visiteurs l'ont goûtée, et elle a été trouvée aussi bonne, si ce n'est meilleure qu'aucune eau de la partie du vent de l'Ile Maurice, où il n'y a que de l'eau de puits. Cette eau n'est pas aussi agréable au goût que l'eau de source ou de rivière, mais on s'y habitue facilement, et elle est d'ailleurs parfaitement saine.

Il existe en outre au pied du monticule du Phare, une source d'eau douce qui paraît assez abondante et qui peut être aussi d'une grande utilité.

L'Ilot Gabriel qui est pour ainsi dire une dépendance ou un accessoire de l'Ile Plate, est beaucoup moins grand, et à une petite distance, 200 ou 300 yards, il en est séparé par un bassin où l'eau est peu profonde ; la

communication est toujours très-facile entre les deux Iles en bateau, elle l'est aussi à pied, et presque à pied sec dans les basses marées.

L'aspect de l'Ilôt est plus riant que celui de l'Ile Plate, parce que la végétation y est plus grande et plus concentrée. On y trouve beaucoup d'arbustes, et en assez grande abondance une plante connue sous le nom de "Baume de l'Ile Plate," qui est un très-bon vulnéraire, et que l'on emploie aussi avec succès dans le traitement des maladies de poitrine.

Les Membres du Comité n'ont pas pu juger par eux-mêmes de la salubrité des deux Iles quoiqu'ils y aient trouvé l'air très pur ; ce n'est pas dans une seule visite qu'on peut se faire une opinion. Mais tous ceux qui ont fréquenté et habité ces îles s'accordent à dire qu'elles sont également saines l'une et l'autre, ce qui résulte d'ailleurs des dépositions recueillies dans l'Enquête.

Quant à la facilité d'aborder, ou quant à la sûreté du mouillage, le Comité n'est pas compétent pour offrir une opinion professionnelle à cet égard. Mais il peut dire que le jour de sa visite, quoique la mer fût assez forte, tout le monde a débarqué facilement, et le steamer a paru mouiller sûrement. Cependant on était au mois d'Aout que l'on considère comme un de ceux où le vent et la mer présentent le plus de difficultés pour cet attérissage, et le jour de la visite fixée longtemps à l'avance n'avait pas pu être choisi exprès. Il faut cependant admettre que l'abordage et le mouillage doivent être quelquefois beaucoup plus difficiles et quelquefois même impossibles. Mais le Comité a remarqué dans sa visite que dans une autre partie de l'Ile, du côté appelé "La Palissade" derrière le monticule du Phare, la mer était beaucoup plus calme, et que l'endroit paraissait parfaitement susceptible d'offrir presque en tout temps un débarquement sûr, autant qu'on peut en juger par la simple inspection des lieux, lorsque la mer est grosse et le débarquement difficile dans la Passe ordinaire entre les deux îles, on doit trouver une mer plus calme et un abordage plus facile du côté de la Palissade ; mais la mer peut être grosse aussi de ce côté, ce qui doit-être assez rare. Dans ce cas, elle doit l'être moins dans la partie opposée. Et s'il arrive quelquefois qu'elle est grosse partout et qu'on ne peut aborder nulle part, on subit la condition de tout lieu baigné par la mer. La Rade du Port-Louis si belle, si calme, si douce, n'est-elle pas elle-même quelquefois inabordable ?

Quand à la question du mouillage il faut être marin et avoir les connaissances spéciales et l'expérience nécessaire pour la traiter ; le Comité doit donc s'en abstenir. Mais il peut dire qu'autant que des hommes peuvent en juger, s'il a des difficultés, la science a les moyens de remédier aux inconvénients et aux imperfections de la nature.

Le Comité en faisant mention dans son Rapport de sa visite à l'Ile Plate et à l'Ilôt Gabriel n'a entendu rendre compte que des opinions et des impressions personnelles de ses membres. Il croit pouvoir dire qu'elles ont été partagées par tous ceux qui y étaient.

Depuis, elles ont été partagées par les autorités compétentes. L'Ile Plate a définitivement été adoptée comme station permanente de quarantaine.

Les fonds nécessaires ont été votés pour y faire un établissement complet. Ils s'élèvent à un chiffre considérable, mais on ne devait reculer devant aucune dépense pour un objet d'une importance aussi grande, aussi vitale pour le pays, en prenant les mesures indispensables pour le préserver du retour des calamités dont il a été si cruellement affligé, on a dû pourvoir aussi à la condition, au bien être de ceux qu'on est obligé de s'équiper momentanément pour le salut de tous.

Le Rapport que le Comité a déjà fait sur la question de l'Île Rodrigue, comme station de quarantaine, et celui d'un autre Comité en réponse aux dépêches du Gouvernement de l'Inde relatives à la suspension de l'Immigration contiennent à cet égard des renseignements et des détails qu'il n'est pas nécessaire de reproduire ici.

LOIS SUR LA QUARANTAINE.

Il a aussi été procédé à la révision et à la modification des lois sur la quarantaine, en sorte que le Comité n'a pas eu à s'occuper de cette partie.

Il y a cependant quelques dispositions qu'il considère comme très importantes, et qu'il croit devoir recommander particulièrement.

ETAT SANITAIRE DES IMMIGRANTS LORS DE L'EMBARQUEMENT,

ET DOCTEURS EUROPÉENS.

Ce sont les deux mesures indiquées par le Dr. Finimore et le Médecin en Chef. L'attention à donner à l'Etat sanitaire des Immigrants, lors de leur embarquement dans l'Inde et la substitution de Médecins Européens aux docteurs natifs.

Le Comité a déjà eu occasion de dire qu'il résultait de l'Enquête que l'inspection des Coolies lors de l'embarquement dans l'Inde était très-imparfaitement faite. Les informations que le Dr. Finimore a prises pendant son séjour à l'Ilot Gabriel, lui ont fait acquérir la preuve que malgré les certificats constatant que l'état sanitaire des Immigrants était satisfaisant, des maladies éclataient le jour même du départ.

La vérité est que depuis la première invasion du Choléra dans la Colonie en 1819, plus de trente années s'étaient écoulées sans qu'on ait eu même le soupçon de l'existence du Choléra, que depuis près de vingt ans que l'Immigration a commencé, elle était arrivée à une très-grande échelle sans qu'on ait eu non plus aucun sujet de crainte à cet égard et que ce n'est que depuis quelques années que le pays a été plusieurs fois menacé et deux fois atteint du terrible fléau.

N'est-on pas fondé à penser que cela peut être dû au relâchement dans les mesures prises pour s'assurer de l'état de santé des hommes à leur départ ?

Le Médecin en Chef a été d'avis qu'il serait fort à désirer qu'on pût obtenir des Docteurs Européens au service du Gouvernement de Maurice pour l'Immigration. Le Comité partage cette opinion. Tous ceux qui ont été à même d'en juger ont déclaré qu'on ne pouvait pas avoir une entière confiance dans les déclarations des docteurs natifs, et il n'est pas douteux qu'il serait très-avantageux de leur substituer des médecins européens. C'est une nouvelle dépense qu'il faudra encourir, mais elle sera certainement compensée par le bien qui en résultera.

Avec les mesures qui ont déjà été prises depuis la terrible épreuve de 1856, et avec celles qui devront encore être adoptées, il y a lieu d'espérer que les dangers auxquels le pays a été exposé, et les malheurs qu'il a eu à déplorer ne se renouvelleront pas.

CHAMBRE DU CONSEIL,

26 Mai 1857.

H. KÖENIG,

Président.

THE FIRST PART OF THE HISTORY OF THE
 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, FROM
 THE DISCOVERY OF THE COUNTRY TO
 THE PRESENT TIME.

THE SECOND PART OF THE HISTORY OF THE
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THE THIRD PART OF THE HISTORY OF THE
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THE FIFTH PART OF THE HISTORY OF THE
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THE SIXTH PART OF THE HISTORY OF THE
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THE SEVENTH PART OF THE HISTORY OF THE
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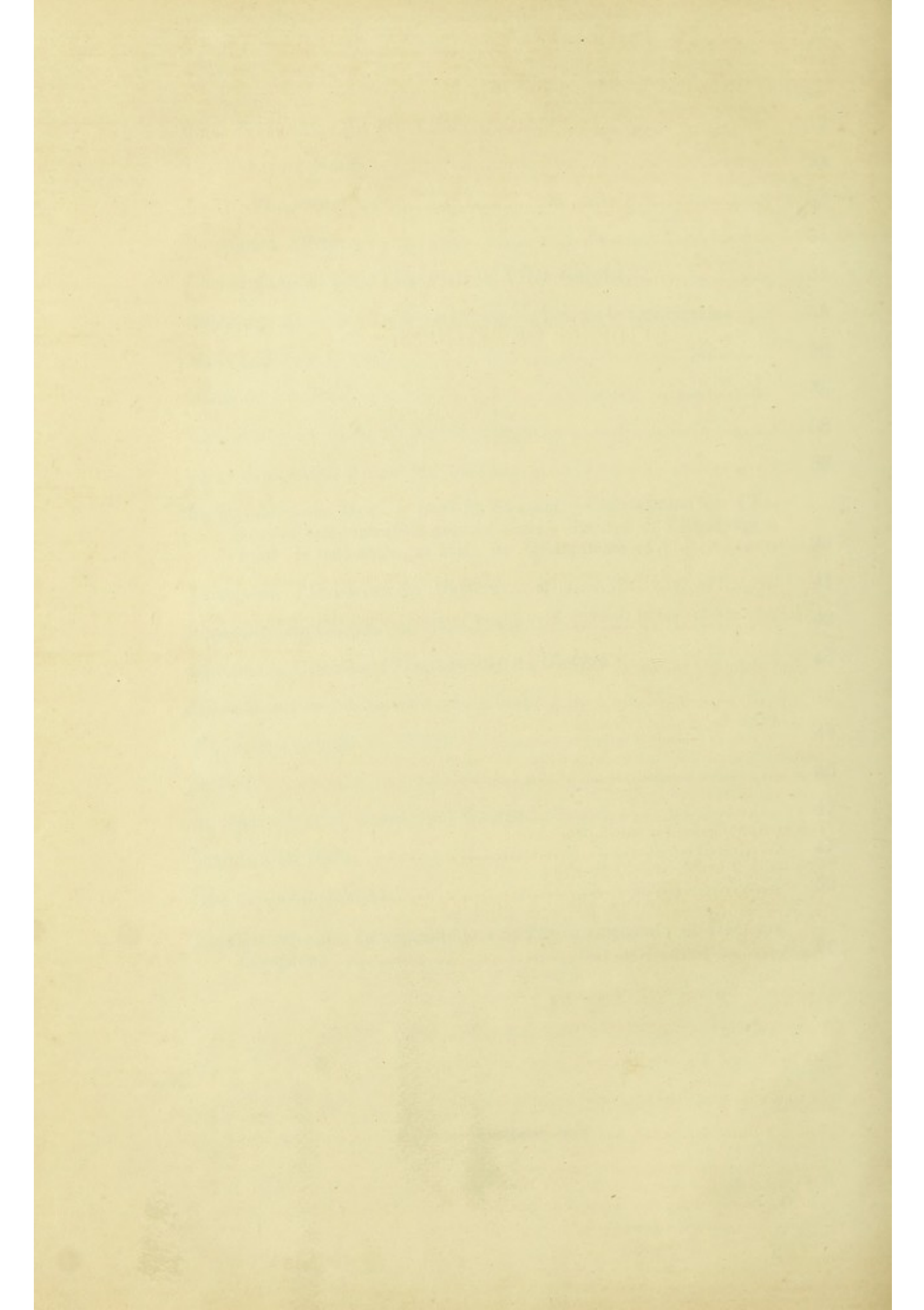
THE EIGHTH PART OF THE HISTORY OF THE
 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, FROM
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THE NINTH PART OF THE HISTORY OF THE
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EVIDENCE OF WITNESSES.

3rd May 1856.

Mr. THOMAS MISSON, sworn, says :

Thomas Mis-
son, Pilot.

My name is Thomas Misson, a pilot, attached to the Port Department.

I recollect the arrival of the ship *Hydere* in this port about the 5th of January last.

I went alongside the board, but did not go on board.

I asked the question whether there were any sick on board, and the Captain answered that 20 men had died with Cholera.

I then ordered the Captain to anchor the Ship out of the Bell Buoy until further orders, and in consequence of the Captain's answer, I replied that I could not go on board.

I told the Captain to anchor the Ship.

That is all I had to do with the Ship.

The Ship anchored a mile and three quarters to windward of the Bell Buoy.

When I went ashore, I reported the fact to Mr. Spencer, verbally ; Mr. Spencer is the Assistant Harbour Master.

I generally make no written report.

I was personally acquainted with the Captain, I had known him as mate.

Mr. Mann and Mr. Stevens, both pilots, accompanied me in the pilot boat.

I came ashore in the afternoon at about 4 o'clock when I made my report.

I do not think the Doctor and Boarding Officer went on board the same day.

I never had any thing more to do with the Ship.

The Quarantine Flag was hoisted on board the *Hydere* the next day, I believe.

(Signed) THO. MISSON

3rd May 1856.

Mr. JOHN SEDDON, is sworn, and says :

John Seddon,
pilot.

My name is John Seddon, a pilot attached to the Port Department.

I recollect the arrival of the *Futtay Mombarrack*.

I was the pilot who went alongside her.

I do not recollect having asked whether there were any sick on board, but we had orders not to go on board any Coolie Ships.

The Captain threw me a tow rope alongside.

I did not go on board.

I then brought the vessel to an anchor to the eastward of the Bell Buoy.

I do not recollect the Captain having mentioned any thing as to the existence of sickness on board his Ship.

I did not report any thing peculiar about the Ship.

I made a written report of the name of the Ship and the port where she was from, as usual.

With regard to other than Coolie Ships, we have no general orders.

We board them when the Captain reports all well on board.

I do not remember whether I put any questions as to the health of the ship *Futtay Mombarrack*, it is so long ago.

My impression is that I put no question.

I think the *Futtay Mombarrack* was placed in quarantine on the day of her arrival.

I do not exactly remember when I came ashore but I believe it was early in the morning.

The *Futtay Mombarrack* arrived during day light.

In my report to the Port Office of the arrival of the Ship, the hour of arrival was not stated.

I know that there was sickness on board, because she was put in quarantine, but I did not know it at the time I went alongside.

The same day I saw the yellow flag at her mast head from the shore.

(Signed) J. SEDDON.

Mann, pilot.

Mr. MANN is sworn, and says :

My name is William Mann, pilot, attached to the Port Department.

I went in the same boat with pilot Misson alongside the *Hyderee*.

We did not board her on account of orders ; we remained about ten yards off.

Mr. Misson asked the Captain wht'er there was any death on board, the Captain answered : Yes, twenty from diarrhea.

The Captain spoke to pilot Misson who was on duty, but I distinctly heard him ; and had the Captain said Cholera, it would have struck me.

Questions are put to every ship including Coolie Ships as to whether they have had any sickness or death, their port of departure, and whether they have communicated with any Ship. 3rd May 1856.

(Signed) Wm. MANN.

Mr. STEVENS is sworn, and says :

My name is James Stevens, pilot, attached to the Port Department.

Steven, pilot,

I was in the same boat with Misson and Mann, alongside the *Hyderee*.

I heard the Captain mention that he had 20 deaths from diarrhea.

The Captain was asked whether it was Cholera, he answered : No, it is diarrhea.

I did not infer from what the Captain said that it was Cholera.

My impression was that the sickness on board was worse than the Captain stated.

I generally ask questions to every ship including Coolie Ships as to the health of the Ship.

(Signed) J. STEVENS.

Dr. FORD is sworn, and says :

Dr. Ford,

My name is William Ford, Health Officer.

I recollect the *Hyderee* having arrived on the 5th of January last.

She was placed on the same day in provisional quarantine by me on account of a great deal of sickness having occurred during the voyage.

There had been 21 deaths, I made my report to the Chief Medical Officer on the same day or following morning for the information of the Board of Health.

I think the vessel arrived late in the afternoon ; when vessels arrive early in the day, reports are sent in on the same day to the Chief Medical Officer.

The hours for boarding ships during the long days are from 7 A. M. to 6 P. M., but on short days from 8 A. M. to 5 P. M.

In case of Coolie Ships, the Mail, or any unusual case, I do not regard hours.

I do not exactly recollect the hour when I went on board, but I believe it was in the afternoon.

I am quite independent of the pilots, I board every ship.

I received the written reports of the Captain in the usual form, I am often obliged from these reports to cross question the Captain to arrive at the truth.

The written reports from the ship are only received after having been sprinkled with vinegar.

Every precaution is taken.

The *Hyderee* remained in provisional quarantine from the day of her arrival to the 15th of January.

She had sufficient provisions on board ; none were sent from the shore to the best of my knowledge.

3rd May 1856. She landed her Coolies on the 17th or 18th of January, on Gabriel Island.

The old steamer was watching two vessels in quarantine, to prevent communication.

It is impossible for me to state that no communication did take place, but I cannot say that any did take place.

In my opinion the best plan for preventing communication would be to have guard boats constantly rowing round, the men to be relieved from time to time so as to ensure their wakefulness ; but in bad weather it would be well to put a couple of men on board the Ship.

When I went alongside the *Hydere* I asked the Captain whether he had any sickness on board ; he mentioned Fever, Diarrhea and Dysentery ; he denied Cholera.

He declared on the arrival of the Ship that no Cholera then existed on board.

I observed that some of the cases had proved fatal in a short time and in my report the attention of the Chief Medical Officer was called to all these particulars.

I have no original documents in my possession, they are all in the Office of the Chief Medical Officer.

The vessel was sent to Flat Island on the 15th of January, ten days after her arrival. During that period there was a question of admitting her to pratique when I made a new report and one or two fatal cases having occurred, it was decided to send her to Flat Island.

I was ever of opinion that the vessel eventually would have to be sent to the Quarantine Station and that it was not possible to admit her to pratique the day after the meeting of the General Board of Health, i. e., on the 8th of January.

The fever then existing on board appeared to me to be of a very severe nature.

Question : Had you been a member of the General Board of Health, would you have contemplated the possibility of admitting to pratique on the 7th of January, the *Hydere* and her passengers with the knowledge that you personally possessed of the state of health in which she was ?

Answer : Decidedly not.

Question : Had you been a member of the General Board of Health, having before you the same information as to the state of Health of the *Hydere* as laid before them at their meeting of the 7th of January last, would you have concurred with them in their resolution of that date ?

Answer : From several cases of fever having so recently occurred, I should not have been inclined to agree with them.

I visited the Ship on the 5th and 8th of January.

From my knowledge, resulting from these two visits, of the state of the Ship, I would have been inclined to send her to the Quarantine Station immediately.

In some of my reports I have ventured to give my opinion, but I have been given to understand that it is not my duty to give my opinion on what steps are to be taken with respect to Ships placed in Quarantine.

Being asked, witness replies : I have never been consulted by the General Board of Health as to the steps to be taken with reference to Ships placed in Quarantine.

It is left to my discretion to admit or not a Ship to pratique on her arrival,

beyond that, I cannot act without the sanction of the General Board of Health. 3rd May 1856.

It is not to my knowledge that the Chief Medical Officer went alongside the Ship *Hydere*.

The *Futtay Mombarrack* arrived on the 8th of January last. 5th May 1866.

The Captain of the *Futtay Mombarrack* reported to me that he had on board, cases of dysentery, diarrhea and fever, he admitted that on starting he had one case of Cholera but had none since; this, to the best of my remembrance, the exact statement is to be found in my written report given at that time in the forms of questions and answers and transmitted to the Chief Medical Officer. Dr. Ford.

He had 21 deaths during the voyage, some of the deaths occurred amongst children and no case of Cholera was admitted by the Captain on his arrival here.

He did not deny that the Ship was in an unhealthy state.

Five days after, on the 13th of January, the *Futtay Mombarrack* was sent to the Quarantine Station.

The *Hydere* only left for the Quarantine Station on the 15th of January; I believe she was detained for supplies of water and provisions, but this concerns more particularly the Port Department. The Port Department is charged with the supply of water and provisions to Ships undergoing Quarantine.

Being asked how those vessels were admitted to pratique, witness answers: The *Hydere* arrived on the 5th of January, went to the Quarantine Station on the 15th, landed her Coolies on the 17th and 18th, returned to the Bell Buoy on the 19th and was admitted to pratique on the 24th of same month. The *Futtay Mombarrack* arrived on the 8th, went to the Quarantine Station on the 13th, landed her Coolies on the 14th, returned to the Bell Buoy on the 15th and was admitted to pratique on the 17th of January.

Both these vessels were fumigated before admitted to pratique.

On the 22nd of January, I reported that there was no sickness among the crew of the *Futtay Mombarrack*.

I have no personal knowledge of the Quarantine Station of Flat Island, not having visited it.

(Signed) W. FORD.

Mr. FRANCK on oath, says:

- My name is Thomas Hurst Franck, Boarding Officer, attached to the Port Department. I went alongside the *Hydere* with Dr. Ford. I heard the questions put to the Captain and the answers he made. Mr. Franck.

My principal duties consist in taking down the arrivals of vessels and other details relating to them, but I have nothing to do with the sanitary state of the vessel.

I am acquainted with the Oriental languages and when there is a native Doctor on board who does not understand English, I interpret for the Pratique Officer.

The Captain stated that the general complaint of all Captains is that some of the men are put on board in a very bad state of health; to the best of my recollection both the Captain of the *Hydere* and that of the *Futtay Mombarrack* made the same complaint.

The Captain of the *Hydere* attributed the deaths which occurred on board his Ship to this state and change of diet.

5th May 1856. This is the unvariable complaint of all Captains from Calcutta and not from Madras.

I visited these vessels every time with the Health Officer.

I had nothing more to do with these vessels. In my opinion communication could not be prevented if the parties were inclined to communicate by the presence of the guard boat, unless she was continually rowing round or near the vessel, nor in any other way except by having trustworthy guards on board.

The Port Department is entrusted with the care of forwarding provisions to the Quarantine Station and all provisions for these two Ships were forwarded to Flat Island through the Port Office.

From my own experience of the native Doctors on board Ships coming from India, I have a very poor opinion of their veracity.

(Signed) T. H. FRANCK

6th May 1856.

Captain DOUGLAS WALES, Acting Harbour Master, on oath, says:

Acting Harbour Master.

I was not holding the situation of Harbour Master on the arrival of the *Hydere*, being appointed only on the 4th of February ult.

I have in my possession the reports and documents relating to that vessel.

There is nothing in the correspondence relating to the Quarantine of the *Hydere* and *Futtay Mombarrack*.

When a vessel comes to this Port, she is first boarded by the Pilot who transmits, as soon as he can, a printed form stating the name of the Ship, her tonnage, the Captain's name, where from and where bound to; she is then boarded by the Boarding Officer and the Health Officer; a printed form is filled in with the name of the vessel and all other particulars relating to her and upon this, the Health Officer, if the sanitary state of the vessel is not satisfactory, puts a note describing the measures which have been adopted with reference to the vessel such as "placed in Quarantine of Observation," or, "placed in Temporary Quarantine". And upon such information, I think it my duty to provide a guard boat and to take other necessary precautions for the due observance of Quarantine.

The first thing done by the Port Department when a vessel is placed in quarantine, is to look for a guard boat for hire, and men to mount the boat, being destitute of a permanent establishment for that purpose.

The time which may elapse is more or less according to circumstances.

The Boarding and Health Officers have instructions to board all, but Coolie vessels until one hour before sunset; if Coolie vessels two hours before sunset.

If a Coolie vessel arrives after that time, she is visited the next day.

There is no doubt that during the night, communication may take place with such vessels anchored at the Bell Buoy, unless there were guard boats to prevent such communication, which in that case takes place at the peril of the men communicating with the vessel, it being contrary to law.

I think that the presence of two guards on board the Ship would be the most efficacious means of preventing communication with a vessel in Quarantine.

I was in charge of the Port Department when Cholera was raging at Gabriel Island.

At that time a letter, from the Chief Medical Officer, dated 1st February, containing necessary instructions to preserve the Quarantine in landing provisions at Gabriel Island was placed into my hands. I transmitted a copy of the same

to the Captain of the Steamer *Victoria* with instructions to attend to it particularly. 6th May 1856.

The Steamer, on account of strong adverse winds, could not go to Gabriel Island until the 6th February, though during that time I received several pressing letters from His Excellency and the Colonial Secretary to dispatch her.

Six Police Constables were sent in the Steamer to Gabriel Island.

On the 14th of January, from the records of the Port Office, I find that one Police Serjeant, 3 Constables and one Peon were forwarded on board the Steamer to Gabriel Island.

Every time the Steamer went to Gabriel Island, I took particular care to ascertain that the Captain had that letter of instructions on board and recommended in a written order his faithful adherence to them.

I had no opportunity of going personally to Gabriel Island.

I have heard reports that the Quarantine Laws at Flat Island were not properly carried out.

As a member of the Commission of Inquiry appointed by His Excellency the Governor, I am aware that Mr. Benjamin Harrison, Mr. William Harrison, and I believe also the Master of the Steamer stated that the regulations had been infringed on the landing the provisions at the Quarantine station.

It was the duty of these Officers to have reported these infractions of the law to me, but they did not do so.

In the Report of the Commission of Inquiry will be found out the nature of these infractions.

Both Gabriel and Flat Islands were placed in Quarantine by Proclamation of 26th January last.

On former occasions, I understand that Gabriel Island was placed in Quarantine, Flat Island being free.

It appears that the cases of communication between Flat Island and the main land took place through ignorance of Flat Island being isolated and placed in Quarantine, and not through the desire of breaking the Quarantine Regulations. These facts appear in the Report of the Commission of Inquiry.

Mr. Autard, the Government contractor for the landing of the provisions is paid at the rate of £ 2 per day for each boat and for the purpose of not losing time and detaining the steamer, the crew assisted the contractor to expedite the landing of the provisions.

The Contractor is under the orders of the Captain of the Steamer who is a Government servant, who looks after the due observance of the quarantine Regulations. When the contractor goes to Flat island, a proper guard is put in his boat, with a yellow flag. I have taken care to place written instructions in the hands of the Officer in charge of the boat.

Later when I heard that there was a flat bottomed boat available at Flat island, I requested as will be seen by a copy of my letter which I produce, that this boat might be used to receive the provisions so that our men or the Contractor's men be not obliged to land on the island for the purpose of depositing the provisions.

I would have given this order from the beginning had I known the existence of this boat. She belongs to Government, but I was not aware of her existence.

I fancy that the first time, the provisions sent to the quarantine station consisted in about 200 bags grain, there were sufficient provisions to last until the end of April for 600 men.

6th May 1856. Those provisions were landed at the quarantine station from the 6th to 23rd of February last.

Tents must have been sent down there early in January before I took charge of the Port Department.

One man belonging to the Contractor died on board the Steamer.

He found himself unable to work down there and came to this port on board the Steamer.

The man came on board the Steamer because he was sick.

This man, a creole named Alfred, had been to Gabriel island on all former occasions in the contractor's boat; lastly on the 20th, 23rd and 26th February ult. He died on the 27th of same month on board the steamer *Victoria*.

His wife died on the 5th of March in Labourdonnais Street.

Before leaving for the station, the man Alfred, was reported unwell and was recommended by Arthur Bellerose, the patron of the boat not to go in the contractor's boat, but he would do it.

The Steamer returned from the quarantine station at about nine o'clock P. M. and the man died at 1 o'clock A. M.

Free communication took place with the shore from the Steamer after her arrival.

I was not informed of the death of Alfred on board the Steamer before half past five o'clock the next morning when I went to the Port Office.

The Steamer should have been placed in quarantine arriving with a sick person on board.

I think the vessel arriving so late at night, the Captain was the proper person to put her in quarantine, but not being a medical man, he did not know that he had Cholera on board.

His reason for having brought the ship in so quick was to procure medical assistance for Alfred.

On the arrival of the vessel, a medical man, Dr. Labat, was sent for and I think he went on board immediately.

Dr. Labat declared it was Cholera.

The Doctor went on shore during the night after prescribing for the sick man.

As soon as I heard the man was dead, I wrote to the Mayor in order that the corpse be buried as soon as possible; I sent for a coffin and was going to send the body to the "Chaussée" of Tonneliers' island for the purpose of being conveyed to the Cemetery of Roche Bois according to instructions received from the Municipality when the Mayor and Deputy Mayor came to the Port Office requesting me to have the man buried at sea, which I readily complied with as the safest measure.

(Signed) DOUGLAS WALES.

George Clerihew, Chief Medical Officer.

GEORGE CLERIHEW, Chief Medical Officer, on oath, says:

I recollect the arrivals of the *Hydere* and *Futtay Mombarrack*; the *Hydere* arrived on the 5th and the *Futtay Mombarrack* on the 8th of January last.

The *Hydere* arrived first and was put in temporary quarantine by the Health Officer until the decision of the Board of Health should be known.

There was a meeting of the Board of Health on the subject on the 7th Janu- 6th May 1856.
ary

The Board of Health, having no evidence of any contagious disease, decided that the ship should be released from Quarantine on the next day, after being fumigated.

There was no death, according to the diary of the vessel, which had occurred within a sufficiently short time.

The last death occurred on the 3rd of January, an infant.

A single death is reported to have taken place, after an illness of one day, although the victim was reported sick one week before.

The order of admitting the vessel to pratique was not executed, because the Health Officer found that four new cases of fever had broken out since his first visit.

The Board of Health met again on the 9th, and it was resolved that the ship would remain in Quarantine of observation until the 12th, when it was found that several deaths had occurred, and the Coolies were then ordered to be landed at Gabriel Island.

No decision was taken as to the ship and crew.

The term of Quarantine at Flat Island was not fixed. The Quarantine was ordered as a measure of precaution.

I have not full confidence in the reports of the Native Doctors and Captains of ships.

I do not think the Health Officer expressed his opinion that the Coolies should be landed at Flat Island.

The Coolies of the *Hydere* had not Cholera when on board. They took it at Gabriel Island, being mixed up with the Coolies of the *Futtay Mombarrack*.

The Doctor at the Quarantine Station reported to me that the *Futtay Mombarrack* had landed two men attacked with Cholera.

On account of the little confidence to be placed in the Native Doctors, the number of deaths excited suspicion, and caused these two vessels to be put in Quarantine.

The *Hydere* remained in temporary Quarantine until the 17th of January.

I do not recollect that any measures had been taken to prevent communication with those ships by the Board of Health; that care is left to the Harbour Master, whose duty it is to attend to all Marine matters.

The Board of Health do not take any steps to prevent communication with vessels in Quarantine. They order the Quarantine, and leave it to the Harbour Master to carry it out.

In my opinion, the Board of Health is a deliberative, and not an Executive Board.

It is possible, during a very dark night, to communicate with vessels in Quarantine, but I think it very difficult, on account of the Guard Boat.

The decisions of the Board of Health are executed by myself partly, and by the Harbour Master.

The Harbour Master receives instructions from the Colonial Secretary direct: so do I.

6th May 1856. I give instructions to the Pratique Doctor.

I gave orders to release the *Hydere* from Quarantine the day after her arrival, the 24th of January.

Six days after the Coolies were landed, I ordered the vessel to be released from Quarantine, after being fumigated.

10th May 1856. When I stated that the Doctor at the Quarantine Station reported to me that the *Futtay Mombarrack* had landed two men attacked with Cholera, I find that I have gone too far. The Doctor arrived on the Station on the 17th of January, and he found there two men attacked with Cholera, according to his letter, which I produce.

When the Board of Health met a second time, to consider what shall be done respecting the *Hydere*, the *Futtay Mombarrack* had arrived. They were both kept in temporary Quarantine until the 12th, and on the new decision of that Board on that day, they were both ordered to Gabriel Island, and the *Futtay Mombarrack* landed her Coolies there on the 14th.

The sanitary state of the *Futtay Mombarrack* was bad, but perhaps not so bad as on board the *Hydere*, it being borne in mind that the number of Coolies on board the *Futtay Mombarrack* was greater than on board the *Hydere*, and the deaths were the same (22).

There is one thing which must be borne in mind as in some measure accounting for the number of deaths on board these Coolie ships—that a considerable proportion were children who died of bowel complaint.

On board the *Futtay Mombarrack*, out of 22 deaths, nine were children; on board the *Hydere*, out of 20 deaths, seven are children, and two adults by accident.

The *Futtay Mombarrack* was admitted to pratique on the 17th.

I, as Chief Medical Officer, and the Colonial Secretary, consulted together as to the propriety of admitting the ship to pratique, and there being no evidence of contagious disease on board the ship, and having no authority from the Board of Health to keep her in Quarantine, we agreed that she should be admitted to pratique; consequently I gave orders to that effect.

What I mean by having "no evidence" is first, the denial of the Doctor of the Ship and the Captain; secondly, when the number of deaths has been considerable, we consider the nature of each individual case stated in the Medical Diary whether fatal or not, in order to see whether the circumstances are of themselves calculated to excite suspicion. The Captain and native Doctor are also cross examined by the Pratique Officer generally and sometimes by myself as to the nature of symptoms.

I think that generally little confidence is to be placed in the statements of the Captains and native Doctors.

On one or two occasions, they have declared cases of chicken pox which, on proceeding to the Bell Buoy and examining patients, I found to be small pox.

I receive the Captain's and native Doctor's evidence in the first instance, because I can have none other.

If European Doctors, in the service of the Government of Mauritius, could be obtained for the immigration service, it would be very satisfactory.

These medical diaries of these two Ships were never submitted to a special medical board to be verified, they were laid before the Committee composed of myself, Dr. Hardie and Dr. Rogers, who were charged with reporting on the measures which would be found necessary for the succour of the sick at Gabriel Island.

Dr. Hardie and Dr. Rogers both thought these Reports very suspicious, but it

must be remembered that they spoke after the event, i. e., after the Cholera had broken out, and also that they did not take into account how many of the deaths were those of children, which makes a very material difference. 10th May 1856.

The ships and crews were admitted to pratique so soon after the Coolies had been placed in Quarantine because there was no proof of contagious disease and the crews had always been healthy.

After I heard of the two cases of Cholera at Gabriel Island, I watched the state of both crews, particularly that of the *Futtay Mombarrack*; both I and the Pratique Officer visited her on several occasions and the crews continued healthy with the exception of one case of diarrhea on board the *Hydere*.

When Pratique was ordered by me to the *Futtay Mombarrack*, I was not aware of the two cases of Cholera at Gabriel Island, which were reported to me on the same day; had I received the report of Dr. Finlay before admitting the ship to Pratique, I would not have admitted her.

The *Hydere* was kept in quarantine longer than the *Futtay Mombarrack* because in the mean time I had received the report of the two cases of Cholera which had taken place at Gabriel Island.

In general when the passengers of a vessel are put in quarantine, the crew ought not immediately to be admitted to Pratique, but an exception is made as to Coolie Ships in certain cases, because the Coolies are large masses, together more liable to disease, which seldom affects the crew.

The Crew are liable to take the disease but are seldom affected; even in the case of the *Sultany* where there were many sick, the crew escaped.

In England the period of incubation of Cholera is considered to be about two days and seldom exceeds six days. In this country I have had no occasion of ascertaining accurately that period; a case of Cholera broke out on board the *Sultany* after the seventeenth day. But it may have been communicated by infected clothing or the opening of an infected box as it has taken place in several instances.

I cannot say what is the common opinion of medical men here on the period of incubation, I do not think it can extend to a fortnight.

I believe there was one indian passenger not being a Coolie on board one of these two vessels, he was admitted to Pratique with the ship and the crew; but I gave no special Pratique for that man.

Generally Coolie Ships have indian Crews, but I do not recollect whether those of the *Hydere* and *Futtay Mombarrack* were lascars.

It would have been more regular to have as usual an order from the General Board of Health to admit these vessels to Pratique.

I did not apply to the General Board of Health in this instance, because the President, whom I consulted, concurred with me in the opinion that there was no necessity to keep the Ships in Quarantine as the Board had given no orders for it and there was no proof of contagious disease.

If the Board gave no orders for putting the Ship in Quarantine, I do not know why, but I think it was forgotten.

My own opinion is that there was no Cholera on board these two Ships during their voyage with the exception of the two cases on board the *Hydere* which occurred in the Hooghly; I instructed Mr. Finlay and Mr. Finnimore to make every possible enquiry among the immigrants as to whether there had been any Cholera during the voyage in either Ship. Mr. Finlay stated that he was unable to get any satisfactory information; M. Finnimore informed me that he is quite satisfied that there was no Cholera on board the *Futtay Mombarrack*, but that he could not get any certain information with regard to the *Hydere*. 12th May 1856.

12th May 1856. I consider that the course taken by the disease at Gabriel Island indicates that it was a fresh epidemic of recent origin.

In other Ships in which Cholera certainly prevailed during the passage, the disease, having run its course, subsided either before the arrival of the Ship at the Bell Buoy or immediately afterwards.

I base my opinion upon the fact that there was no evidence of Cholera having broken out on board during the voyage and secondly that the epidemic after two cases had broken out on landing the Coolies at Gabriel Island, increased and ran the usual course of a fresh epidemic.

As far as my opinion goes, I do not think that the disease could have originated of itself, but it may have been occasioned by the landing and the use of infected articles.

When Dr. Finlay arrived at the Quarantine Station, he found two men attacked with Cholera ; they were landed on the 14th and Dr. Finlay arrived there on the 17th

The disease broke out too soon to have originated of itself.

The men of the two vessels were mixed at Gabriel Island ; it would have been better to have separated them but there was no means of doing so.

At the time the order was given for their being mixed there was no evidence of any contagious disease amongst them ; the report of Cholera having broken out, was received afterwards.

It would have been very difficult to have separated them because the Island was small and there were no palissades at hand.

It would have been possible to have separated them by placing one set of Immigrants on Flat Island, but it was considered expedient to keep Flat Island free from quarantine to enable the contractor to go on with the permanent Quarantine Buildings.

Flat Island was formerly repeatedly employed as a Quarantine Station ; Gabriel Island was only once employed for that purpose but Cholera did not exist on that occasion.

I have not sufficient experience of the locality to decide the question whether Gabriel Island is as healthy as Flat Island

I do not recollect when Flat and Gabriel Islands were proclaimed to be in Quarantine.

I believe Gabriel Island was *de facto* first placed in Quarantine and afterwards Flat Island.

Gabriel Island was placed in quarantine before the Governor's Proclamation was published by the fact of the General Board of Health having sent the Immigrants there for that purpose.

No instructions were given at that time with regard to Flat Island.

Measures were taken to prevent communication between Gabriel Island and Flat Island and also between Gabriel Island and Mauritius.

The measures were that Police men were sent down there, with no special instructions except that the men were in quarantine ; later, when the disease broke out, special instructions were issued to the Police Serjeant, the Medical Officer in charge and the letter Carrier, dated 24th and 29th January as per certified copies which I will hand in.

I do not recollect how many Police men there were at Gabriel Island at first, 12th May 1856. but subsequently the number was greatly increased, I think, to about 26.

Mr. Lecacheur is a resident at Grand Bay and having boats was employed by me to carry on a communication with Flat Island which I thought necessary for the purpose of being informed of the wants of the men in Quarantine generally.

There was a fear that the supply of water and other necessities might run short.

When the man arrived at the Quarantine Station, there were no residents at Gabriel Island, but there were about 50 at Flat Island.

There were a few workmen attached to the Surveyor General's Department and some prisoners, also the Light House keeper and family at Flat Island.

Those people are still at Flat Island with the exception of one who returned to Mauritius about the beginning of the Quarantine, before they heard of Flat Island having been put in Quarantine.

Communication between Flat Island and Gabriel Island is possible, I never tried it myself.

I am not sure that communication did not take place, I have no means of ascertaining it.

There is no water to be had at Gabriel Island and therefore water was carried from Flat Island to Gabriel Island, but orders were given to prevent the Coolies from approaching the water carrier.

Water was carried in casks in a pirogue landed on the beach and there left.

The empty casks were afterwards returned in the pirogue.

I have heard of one prisoner having been sent to Mauritius from Flat Island, I believe it was before the Island was known by them to be sequestered.

I heard of the death of the wife of the Light House keeper. I wrote to Dr. Finnimore to get information about it and he reported to me that from all he could learn she appeared to have died of modified Cholera.

I cannot attribute it to communication because I never had any proof of any such communication having taken place.

I believe Serjeant Browne was not attacked with Cholera, fever I think.

When the woman was taken ill, her husband sent for Dr. Finlay to visit her, but he refused because he was not allowed to communicate with Flat Island, but he sent her medicines.

The Coolies at Gabriel Island were first lodged under tarpaulins and afterwards in wooden huts.

I believe there was covering enough, I never had any complaints on that account.

They were provided with all that was necessary for their subsistence, i. e., the usual rations.

There were about 650 Coolies at Gabriel Island, the deaths amounted to 226 from all causes, much more from fever and dysentery than from Cholera.

No report was made to me of any insufficiency of rations or of the improper

12th May 1856. manner of burying the dead; they did ask for more hoes which were immediately furnished.

With regard to the burial of the dead, I gave instructions to Dr. Finlay as per copy of my letter dated 19th February which I will hand in.

I cannot assert that the instructions with regard to the visits of the steamer at Gabriel Island when given by me, were strictly executed, it was the business of the Harbour Department to exercise proper control over the execution of those orders.

I have no official knowledge of an inquiry and report made by a Special Committee stating that communication had taken place between the men of the steamer and those of the Quarantine Station. I heard of it but nothing positive.

13th May 1856. With reference to sugar, I shall mention that a complaint was made to me as to its quality, but this article was supplied for the constables.

The Coolies had, besides their usual rations, pumpkins, goats, fowls and other articles, a list of which may be had from the Commissariat Office.

Dr. Hardie, who was specially instructed to make enquiry on the spot whether any thing more was required for the Immigrants, was informed by Dr. Finlay that nothing was wanted, but some rum for the constables.

I heard of a man named Alfred, having died on board the Steamer from Cholera.

The message was sent to me by the Acting Harbour Master.

I subsequently received an official report from Dr. Labat.

I can form no opinion on the origin of his attack; he was complaining before he went down, but he had already been several times to Gabriel Island.

I never could find out whether the instructions given were strictly followed, for preventing communication between the Steamer and Gabriel Island, but communication took place between the Steamer and Port Louis, on her arrival with Alfred on board.

When Dr. Hardie went down to Gabriel Island in the Steamer, the Mate of the vessel sat in the boat the whole day in the sun, to prevent communication.

Alfred having died of Cholera on board the Steamer, all communication between her and the shore ought to have been prevented.

I cannot offer any opinion respecting the cause of the appearance of Cholera in Port Louis. I think it more likely that it came from Gabriel Island, for the reason of the coincidence of its existing there.

I cannot say whether Cholera could have come without direct communication.

Soon after the disease broke out at Gabriel Island, the Coolies received new clothing, in addition to those they already had, on account of the weather.

When they left Gabriel Island for Port Louis, they were given new clothes, which they wore on their landing here. All the rest were burnt before they left the Quarantine Station.

At the beginning of the Quarantine, the weather was bad. Dr. Finlay reported to me that during the bad weather the state of the health of the Coolies was not worse than afterwards.

I believe they were sufficiently sheltered.

It is possible that, during the bad weather, being obliged to remain together, they may have suffered more than as if they enjoyed the free air. 13th May 1856.

I do not recollect when Dr Hardie made his report, stating that the Mate of the vessel sat in the boat the whole day, to prevent communication. I believe it was in the latter end of February.

I do not know whether the same precaution was taken to prevent communication each time the Steamer went down.

Signed: GEO. CLERHEW, M. D.

The Honorable JAMES DOWLAND, Acting Colonial Secretary, on oath, says:—

James Dowland,
Acting Colonial
Secretary.

I recollect the arrival of the *Hyderee* and *Futtay Mombarrack*.

I have already handed in the copies of the Minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Health, respecting the arrival of these vessels, dated 7th, 9th, and 12th January last.

It seems a very natural question, put to me as Chairman of the General Board of Health, "what were the reasons which induced the Board to come to the resolution, "at their meeting of the 7th of January, to the effect that the *Hyderee* shall be admitted to pratique on the following day?" The fact is, the question of pratique in this case being purely a medical one, I left it to the professional members of the Board to decide.

I examined the documents laid before the Board of Health more or less, but this examination also I left in a great measure in the hands of the Medical members of the Board.

I certainly did form an opinion on the sanitary condition of the *Hyderee*, but in forming that opinion I was chiefly guided by the opinion of the Medical members of the Board.

In reply to your question, I have no hesitation in stating that I was struck with the number of deaths and the amount of sickness on board the *Hyderee* as being unusually large.

The opinion of the Medical members of the Board was that there would be no danger in admitting the vessel to pratique, and I beg to observe that in my opinion it is absurd to submit such questions of pratique to a Board composed of five members, three of whom are lay members.

Being asked whether he had ever an opportunity of expressing officially this opinion, the witness answered:—

No. It is only recently when I have felt myself placed at the Board of Health, with regard to such questions, in a most false position, that I have become convinced of the impropriety of submitting such questions to a Board so composed.

This is not the first question of pratique which has come before the Board since I have been a member of it.

Independently of the opinion of the Medical members of the Board, I am guided in some measure in forming my opinion by the documentary evidence laid before the Board, but I should hesitate in differing in opinion from the Medical members of the Board upon a Medical question such as this; and I will even add that whatever might be my own opinion, I would not carry the decision of the Board, by my vote in opposition to the opinion of the Medical members of it.

As President of the Board of Health, my opinion is that the declarations and Reports of the Captains and Native Doctors of Coolie ships are not in all cases to be fully relied on.

13th May 1856. The *Hyderree* was not admitted to pratique on the 8th of January, as ordered by the Board of Health, because additional cases of sickness had occurred. In the meantime the *Futtay Mombarrack* arrived, with sickness on board, when both were placed in Provisional Quarantine, and on the 12th January it was decided to send both vessels to the Quarantine Station at Gabriel Island.

Being asked whether, during the period of the Provisional Quarantine of the two vessels, sufficient precautions were taken to prevent communication, witness answered:—I am not aware of any thing to the contrary.

I am not charged with such matters, either as President of the Board of Health or as Colonial Secretary.

The Quarantine Laws and Regulations provide for such precautions being taken, and the Chief Medical Officer is the Superintendent of Quarantine, and has the control of the Pratique.

I am not aware of any precautions, with respect to Quarantine, other than those provided for by the law, excepting occasionally the employment of a Guard Boat.

I am not aware of any particular means being employed by the Port Office, excepting that just mentioned.

There is no permanent Quarantine Staff attached to the Port Office.

I do not think that the means of carrying out the regulations for preventing communication are sufficient. This is my present opinion, after the experience I have recently had.

I admit that communication is possible.

When the two vessels were sent to Gabriel Island to discharge their passengers, no resolution was taken by the Board of Health with reference to the said vessels, but my attention was afterwards called to the fact. Meanwhile the vessels remained in Quarantine.

I do not recollect why no decision was taken as to the ships.

17th May 1856. Pratique was given, by order of the Chief Medical Officer, to the *Hyderree* on the 24th of January, with the consent of the Governor upon an application made by the Chief Medical Officer to that effect, dated the 22d of January, in which he states that the crew of the *Hyderree* is now perfectly healthy. (Witness hands in a copy of that letter, and at the same time, in compliance with the request of the Committee, copies of a memorandum, dated 25th of February, appointing a Medical Committee to investigate the nature and course of the diseases prevailing at Gabriel Island, and of the Report of that Committee, dated the 6th of March, 1856, with copy of the Chief Medical Officer's letter of the 8th of April, forwarding the same.)

I do not remember any thing as to the discharge of the *Futtay Mombarrack* from Quarantine.

As regards the *Futtay Mombarrack*, I have already answered that I have no recollection, but as regards the *Hyderree*, the Board of Health was not consulted for her admission to pratique.

I do not think it was at all necessary to refer the question to the Board of Health, the Board not having required it to be so referred, and the Chief Medical Officer, who, I consider, was fully competent to grant the discharge, not having required such reference to be made.

It has been the practice, since the Cholera of 1854, to refer such questions to the Board of Health, at the request of the Chief Medical Officer, but I consider that that Officer is the proper party to deal with such questions, and that the General

17th May 1856.

Board of Health should only interfere in Quarantine matters by preparing General Regulations, as required by Art. 8 of the Board of Health Ordinance; but such regulations, unless published by order of the Governor, under Ordinance No. 38 of 1844, could have no force or effect, as the Board of Health Ordinance itself prescribes no penalties for the breach of such Regulations. I believe that such questions were scarce ever referred to the Board of Health previous to 1854, although the Board of Health Ordinance came into operation in October, 1851. I beg at the same time to refer to Art. 14 of Ordinance No. 38 of 1844, which requires the Health Officer to apprise the Chief Medical Officer of the causes which have led to the temporary Quarantine of any vessel, in order that the Governor, upon the report of that Officer, may decide upon the necessity of continuing the Quarantine, and in order to fix the temporary or indeterminate duration of the Quarantine, and direct all such measures of precaution and safety as shall be deemed necessary. I am not aware that the Board of Health has ever assumed to itself the right of deciding in all such cases, or called in question the right of the Chief Medical Officer to exercise his discretion therein.

I believe that it was not before the 24th of January that it was communicated to me that Cholera had broken out at Gabriel Island.

The Chief Medical Officer communicated orally the circumstance to me.

I beg to hand in the copy of a letter from the Chief Medical Officer of the 25th January, No. 16, reporting that outbreak, together with a copy of the Governor's memorandum thereupon, dated the 26th January.

I beg to add that on the 24th January, a Proclamation putting Flat Island and Gabriel Island in Quarantine was prepared and sent to the Governor for signature. I hand in a copy of the Proclamation, also a copy of His Excellency's memorandum of that date, 3 P. M. addressed to me and in so doing, I must explain that in order to avoid delay I communicated the original of this memorandum that evening to the Chief Medical Officer and did not convey its contents in a regular official communication.—I hand in a Copy of my note to the Chief Medical Officer transmitting that memorandum, also an official letter addressed that evening to the Superintendent of Police requesting that he would immediately direct the Police Officers stationed in the Districts of Pamplémousses and Rivière du Rempart to apprise the fishermen on the coast that Flat and Gabriel Islands had been placed in Quarantine; also a Copy of Mr. Dawkins' note to me dated the 24th 10 P. M., stating that the instructions contained in that letter would be immediately acted upon.

Until the 24th of January, I am not aware of any measures having been taken by the Government to prevent communication with the Quarantine Station other than those which may have been taken by the Chief Medical Officer. I consider that both Gabriel and Flat Islands were in the exclusive occupation of the Government and that no person unconnected with the Government had any business there or any right whatsoever to go there, without the permission of Government, nor am I aware that there could be any temptation to such persons to land on either of those islands which are at a considerable distance from the main land.

I am sure that up to the 24th of January, I had no intimation that Cholera existed on those islands, nor had I any suspicion before the 24th of its existence there.

I believe that every member of the Board of Health who met on the subject of the Coolies of the *Hydree* and *Futtay Monbarrack* sent to Gabriel Island was of opinion that when sent to those islands, there was no case of Cholera on board, and I remember to have heard the late Mr. Léchelle declare his opinion at the Board positively to that effect.

I do not remember to have received any communication from the Lazaret between the 14th and 24th of January; all communications respecting Quarantine from the Lazaret should be made direct to the Chief Medical Officer.

Dr. Finlay embarked on board the steamer for the Quarantine Station on the

17th May 1856. 14th January as appears by the letter of the Harbour Master dated 8th of April 1856 which I hand in.

I also hand in a letter to the Chief Medical Officer under date the 19th January, announcing the appointment of Dr. Finlay as Surgeon Superintendent of the Quarantine Station; also a letter from the Chief Medical Officer dated 21st January reporting that Dr. Finlay was sent to Gabriel Island on the 14th and a memorandum dated 24th of January appointing a Committee to frame Quarantine Regulations.

Being asked: What measures the Government took when Cholera broke out at Gabriel Island?—Witness refers to the Proclamation of 24th January 1856, placing Flat and Gabriel Islands in Quarantine and the instructions to the Chief Medical Officer conveyed in his Excellency's memorandum of the 24th January; also appointing a Committee to frame Quarantine Regulations for the Lazaret and also to the instructions issued to the Superintendent of Police on the 24th January to cause the fishermen on the coast to be warned not to communicate with those islands, whilst policemen were sent down to prevent such communication and on the islands there were one European and two native Doctors.

On the 14th of January 1 serjeant, 2 constables and 1 peon (constable) were sent to Gabriel Island and 6 other constables were sent on the 6th of February. I hand in a list of the Police force at Gabriel and Flat Islands sent there between the 14th of January and 28th of February amounting in all to 28 men.

Being asked: What provisions were sent to those Islands?—Witness hands in two statements signed by the Commissary General of the provisions, clothing, &c sent to the Lazaret between the 11th of January and 31st of March. Those statements show that sundry requisitions were made by the Assistant Colonial Secretary, but this was done merely to save time, it not being the business of the Colonial Secretary's Office to make such requisitions.

Being asked: Do you think that those measures were sufficient to ensure that no communication could take place?—Witness answers: We felt confident that at the time they were so, or we should have resorted to others.

Being asked: Whether, in fact, unlawful communication with the Quarantine Station did take place?—Witness answers: I am not aware of any other unlawful communication with those Islands having taken place than that which is mentioned in the Report of a Committee appointed to enquire into such alleged communication, dated the 24th March, which Report I hand in, together with a memorandum thereupon of my own, dated the 28th of March, and a note of the Harbour Master, dated the 27th. I wish to hand in also a letter from Dr. Finnimore, dated the 30th of April, addressed to myself.

19th May 1856. Before being questioned, witness begs to offer the following observations:—

In order that what I stated to the Committee on a previous occasion may not be misunderstood, and as the Committee is charged with revising the Quarantine Laws, I beg to observe that I have not objected to the General Board of Health being constituted as it now is by law. The Ordinance determines only the number of the members; it does not prescribe who they shall be. I think it might be well to have a third Medical member on the Board, but he should not be also a member of any local Board, for the two offices appear to me incompatible.

I am of opinion that the General Board of Health should continue to be charged with making general regulations respecting Quarantine; that such regulations should provide, as far as practicable, for every case of vessels arriving liable to Quarantine, on account of infectious or contagious disease, and that the Chief Medical Officer, who is, as stated by one who formerly held that office, the guardian of public health, should be left to deal with all cases not so provided for, according to his discretion; two other Medical men being appointed to assist him with their advice, when required by him so to do, which Medical men might be members of the General Board of Health.

Of course the Chief Medical Officer should remain a member of that Board, and would apply to it for any alteration or addition to the General Regulations on Quarantine he might at any time deem expedient. 19th May 1856.

The note I addressed to Dr. Clerihew on the 24th of January, from my house in the country, was returned to me the next day, with the Governor's memorandum.

The Report of the Committee, dated the 24th of March, into the alleged cases of breach of the Quarantine Laws, was provoked, as regards the Indian Auboy, by a private note addressed to me by the Protector of Immigrants, but as regards the people on board the Steamer I do not remember.

There was decidedly a breach of the Quarantine Laws on the part of some of the persons mentioned in this Report if the yellow flags were hoisted on Flat Island on the 8th of February as stated by Dr. Finnimore in his letter of 30th of April which I have handed in ; but it is stated in the note of the Harbour Master that they were not hoisted till the 10th.

Being asked : Whether the display of the yellow flags was absolutely necessary in order to constitute any communication with those Islands, an infraction of the Quarantine Laws and whether the Proclamation of the 24th of January forbidding all communication whatsoever was not of itself sufficient ?

Witness answers : The question being a legal one, I do not feel competent to answer it, but I have doubts whether any communication with Flat Island before or after the display of the yellow flags would subject the party guilty of it to any penalty under the Quarantine Laws as existing at the date of that Proclamation. At the same time I was of opinion when the Proclamation of the 24th of January was published that any person landing at those Islands would, until that Proclamation was revoked, be liable to the penalties therein mentioned and I consider the display of yellow flags not as absolutely necessary but only as expedient as a warning to any persons approaching those Islands.

Being asked : You express doubts whether any communication with Flat Island before or after the display of the yellow flags would subject the party guilty of it to any penalty for breach of Quarantine ; will you explain the grounds upon which you entertained these doubts ?

Witness answers : I am not aware of any law or regulation requiring the display of the yellow flags at Flat Island when in Quarantine.

Being asked : You state that when the Proclamation of the 24th of January was published you were of opinion that any person landing at those Islands would, until that Proclamation was revoked, be liable to the penalties therein mentioned ; do I understand you to imply that you have since then changed this opinion ?

Witness answers : I have doubts on the subject now which I did not then entertain, and I will give my reasons for entertaining those doubts. Up to the 25th of April there were no other regulations respecting Quarantine at Flat and Gabriel Islands than those of the 24th of January and those are made in virtue of the 17th article of Ord. No. 38 of 1844 which provides only for regulations for establishing and ensuring the execution of the duties of the Quarantine establishment.

Being asked : Whether he took the opinion of the law Officer of the Crown as to the breach of Quarantine mentioned in the Report of the 24th of March last ?

Witness answers : No ; it was not thought necessary for the reason that it did not appear that there was any intention to commit such breach and that it was done ignorantly.

Being asked : Was any notice taken of this breach of Quarantine as regards the parties implicated ? *Witness answers :* No further official notice than the fact of the enquiry of the Committee.

Being asked : Assuming that the parties implicated were ignorant that the Islands were placed in Quarantine, how do you account for the ignorance of the

19th May 1856. *fact? Witness answers:* I presume that the Chief Medical Officer had not communicated to them that Flat Island as well as Gabriel Island had been placed in Quarantine.

It was the duty of the Chief Medical Officer and not that of the Colonial Secretary to make that communication.

The Government gave no special orders to communicate to the people of Flat Island that they were in Quarantine.

The Colonial Secretary is not charged with furnishing the yellow flags or ordering them to be hoisted; all communications with the Lazaret respecting Quarantine matters can only be made regularly through the Chief Medical Officer and all instructions to the establishment there should be given by him.

The Government gave no special instructions to that effect to the Chief Medical Officer other than what is in the correspondence handed in as far as I can at present remember. Whatever the Chief Medical Officer applied for was granted.

I wish to hand in a letter of the 12th of January to the Protector of Immigrants and extract from a note from the Assistant Colonial Secretary addressed to me, dated the 4th of February, with copy of the Governor's memorandum of the 2nd February. I wish to observe I hand in a copy of the Governor's memorandum as the contents of it were not communicated to the Chief Medical Officer in an Official letter.

I believe that the people in Quarantine were not always provided with what was necessary for their subsistence, but that was no fault of the Government for whatever was deemed necessary by the Chief Medical Officer was authorized to be furnished immediately.

The information that the men in Quarantine were in want of supplies was given to me by the Chief Medical Officer.

Respecting the coolies in Quarantine at Gabriel Island, there was a great deal of communication between the Chief Medical Officer and myself, but it was chiefly oral for the sake of convenience and dispatch. The Official correspondence being almost entirely confined to subjects respecting which he required a written authority. Whenever he made application in writing or otherwise for supplies being sent to the Lazaret, such application was immediately granted; and when the Government could contemplate any thing being there wanted, they did not wait for an application from the Chief Medical Officer; suggestions were gladly received from any party and expense was treated as a very secondary consideration.

I hand in a demi Official letter dated 4th of March addressed to the Medical Officer in charge of the Quarantine Station and also a letter from the Chief Medical Officer dated 25th of January No. 15 with the Governor's memorandum of the 26th thereupon and two notes from the Surveyor General; also another letter from the Chief Medical Officer dated 25th of February reporting that he had engaged Dr. Finnimore to proceed to the Quarantine Station.

20th May 1856. I wish to explain that in stating that the people at the Quarantine Station were not always provided with what was necessary for their subsistence, I did not mean to imply that they were not so provided further than is shewn in the correspondence I have handed in to the Committee.

I desire to state in writing when and under what circumstances I first entertained doubts as to the force of the Proclamation of 24th January and to whom I communicated them.

The lodging of the men at Gabriel Island was not so good as it ought to have been, but it was as good, I believe, as could then be supplied.

I cannot remember whether there were any buildings when the Coolies landed at Gabriel Island; the Surveyor General can better answer the question.

The Coolies were lodged under tarpaulins supported by poles.

I do not recollect that any complaint was preferred by the men at the Quarantine Station. 20th May 1856.

Dr. Hardie went to Gabriel Island on the 20th of February and returned the next day on board the Steamer; I hand in the letter of the Chief Medical Officer of the 29th February transmitting Dr. Hardie's report and my letter of the 6th of March addressed to the Chief Medical Officer.

On the 13th of February, the Governor communicated to me that he was quite prepared to send another medical man to Gabriel Island, but the Chief Medical Officer appeared to him to think it unnecessary, and on the 25th of February the Governor expressed to me his hope that another medical man had been procured and his wish that two other medical men should be associated to the Chief Medical Officer to investigate the course of the disease at the Lazaret, and to report what further could be done to mitigate the sickness there. The Report of that Committee I have already handed in.

I am aware that a death occurred on board the Steamer on her return from Gabriel Island on the 26th February as reported by Dr. Labat, acting for the health Officer, which report I will hand in.

I am not aware of any other death from Cholera having occurred in the Island before the one just mentioned.

The Government did not institute any inquiry into the cause of death of that man from Cholera.

Dr. Labat, who reported his death as being occasioned by Cholera, attended him, I believe, during his sickness.

I believe the deceased belonged to the crew of the Steamer.

I cannot say whether he had been many times to the Lazaret, but I believe he had been once before.

I believe that immediately after the case was reported to the Chief Medical Officer, he took steps to have all the people who had landed from the Steamer on board again and the vessel put in quarantine.

I have heard that almost all the crew had landed.

I never heard the Chief Medical Officer had suggested the placing of the Steamer in Quarantine on her return trips from the Lazaret; nor am I aware of any person having suggested it. On the contrary I have heard that the Chief Medical Officer expressed great astonishment when this event happened that the subjecting of the Steamer to quarantine on her return had not previously occurred to him.

Being asked: How it occurred that a case of Cholera existing on board, the crew were allowed to disembark? *Witness answers:* Because the vessel was not placed in quarantine.

I cannot say that the people on board had any doubts of the case in question being a case of Cholera, but I believe great doubts were expressed by others on the subject, especially by Drs. Montgomery and Ford.

I cannot say that the patient had been seen by those gentlemen.

These doubts were not officially expressed.

They were expressed on the same day as the death of the man occurred.

I think it was the duty of the Captain of the Steamer to place his vessel in Quarantine, coming from the Quarantine Station with a man so sick on board especially as he, the Captain, was a Pilot.

I am not aware that he had any special instructions to that effect; it is not my duty to issue instructions to the Pilots or to the Captains of the Steamers.

20th May 1856. *Being asked* : Under the particular circumstances of the existence of Cholera at Gabriel Island was it not the duty of Government either itself to give instructions or to make sure that instructions were given to the Captain of the Steamer for his guidance in any emergency which might arise of the same nature as that which happened ?

Witness answers : The law not having prescribed such duty to the Government I cannot take upon myself to say it was or was not its duty.

27th May 1856. Before commencing my examination I wish to state that I have applied to the Chief Medical Officer for Mr. Labat's letter mentioned in my evidence of the 20th instant and that I have not been able to procure it.

I beg to hand in, agreeably to my desire expressed in my evidence of the 20th instant, a statement in writing shewing when and under what circumstances I first entertained doubts as to the force of the Proclamation of 24th January, and to whom I communicated them.

I also hand in a memorandum from the Surveyor General as to the accommodations which existed at the Quarantine Station for the immigrants who were sent there.

I cannot say how many tents were sent down, I believe the requisition was made by the Chief Medical Officer.

I believe that the immigrants at the Lazaret were never long in want of any thing they required ; their wants as soon as known being supplied as early as practicable.

Being asked : Do you know whether these wants had any influence upon the progress and result of the malady ?

Witness answers : I do not think that the want of any particular article of food had any such influence, but I have heard that it was otherwise with regard to medical comforts. In stating that I have heard this, I refer to a communication from the Medical Officer in charge of the Lazaret to the Chief Medical Officer. I believe it was also stated that such want of medical comforts arose from those which had been sent having miscarried.

Being asked : How do you think the Cholera was conveyed from the Lazaret to Mauritius ?

Answer : I am not competent to answer that question.

Question : Did the Government take any steps to procure any information in order to ascertain whether the malady was introduced into Mauritius from Gabriel Island ?

Answer : The Government did not institute any official inquiry into the matter.

According to my views on the subject it is possible that the disease was introduced from the Lazaret.

Question : Why do you consider yourself incompetent to answer the question put to you "how do you think that the disease was brought from Gabriel Island to Mauritius?"

Answer : I consider not only myself incompetent but every other person too.

Question : Why is every one incompetent to answer that question ?

Answer : Because I find the ablest writers on the subject differ with one another respecting it.

Question : In virtue of your opinion that no body is competent to form an opinion on the subject, do you think that the present enquiry will prove quite useless ?

Answer : The Committee having been appointed to inquire into and report 27th May 1856. upon the probable cause or causes of the recent outbreak of Cholera in Mauritius and whether it be expedient to make any alteration in the Quarantine Laws now in force, I do not think that the present enquiry should or will prove quite useless.

The first death from Cholera, I believe, occurred in a Serjeant of Sappers and Miners stationed at Fort George on the 3rd of March, the next fatal case, I believe, was an artillery man quartered in the Citadel who had not left the Citadel for a week ; it occurred on the 4th of March ; the third fatal case, I believe, was that of a woman in Labourdonnais street, on the 7th of March.

This woman is said to be the wife of the man who died on board the Steamer and not to have had any personal communication with her husband since his return to Mauritius on the previous voyage on the 23rd of February.

This information has not been communicated to me in an Official form by any person.

Question : Did you receive any information respecting the death of these two men ?

Answer : The only information I have received respecting those two men is contained in a Report of the Chief Medical Officer dated 19th of April which I will communicate to the Committee.

Until I received that report, I was under the impression that the first fatal case of Cholera was that of the woman in Labourdonnais street.

I believe that the Regulations, with regard to the embarkation of Coolies in India, are such as, if conformed to, would preclude people in an unhealthy condition being put on board.

The unhealthy state of the Immigrants on their arrival here for some time past has attracted the notice of Government, and the agents of the several presidencies have been written to on the subject.

I do not think that the unhealthy condition of the Coolies on their arrival at Mauritius is a proof that the regulations just mentioned have not been strictly adhered to.

I am not aware of the Government having received any complaint of the unhealthy state of the Coolies when put on board.

On the arrival of every Immigrant Ships, an inquiry into the treatment of the Coolies ought to be made by the Protector.

Question. Are you aware that two prisoners were sent here from Flat Island during Quarantine there ?

Answer. Yes ; it is mentioned in the Report of the Committee which I have handed in ; and I think that a member of that Committee mentioned the circumstance to me previous to the drawing up of the Report, between the 15th and 24th of March, to the best of my belief.

I was not aware before the Report just mentioned was sent in, that a workman had left Flat Island for Grand Bay and from Grand Bay came to Port-Louis.

Neither was I aware until this moment of the effects of a French Surgeon having been sent from Flat Island to the Police of Port Louis and from thence to the French Consul.

I beg to hand in a statement signed by the Protector of Immigrants shewing what Immigrants had previous to 1856, been sent to perform Quarantine at Flat Island and in handing it in, I wish to observe that when the Immigrants of the *Hyderee* and *Futtay Mombarrack* were sent to Gabriel Island, I was not aware that they were about to be placed in a worse position there than that in

27th May 1856. which other Immigrants had been placed at Flat Island; nor am I aware that, on former occasions of Immigrants in Quarantine being sent to Flat Island and these were all sent on account of Cholera, other precautions were taken to prevent unlawful communication with the main land than those taken when the Immigrants of the *Hydere* and *Futtay Mombarrack* were sent to Gabriel Island who were not sent thither on account of Cholera.

The two Islands are very near to each other and for ought, I know equally salubrious.

I hand in also extracts from a letter of 1st July 1853 written by the late Dr. Thom and from the Schedule of the Chief Medical Officer's Establishment in 1854 signed by Dr Clerihew, as, in conjunction with art: 14 of Ord. No. 38 of 1844 and art: 8 of Ord. No. 37 of 1851, fully bearing me out in all I have stated as to the duties of the Chief Medical Officer with respect to Quarantine. I may also mention that in May 1854 a clerk to be specially charged with Quarantine matters was added to the Chief Medical Officer's Establishment.

Signed : J. DOWLAND.

31st May 1856.

Evidence of Thomas Arthur Finnimore Surgeon on the Staff of Her Majesty's Service, says on oath :

Thomas Arthur Finnimore, Surgeon.

I went to Gabriel Island on 26th February last and I was authorized by the Government to take charge of the Quarantine Station there.

I landed at Gabriel Island at about 7 A. M. and I found the Immigrants undergoing Quarantine on the East side of the Island.

Up to that time they had been under the charge of Mr. Finlay.

I found the Coolies in a very deplorable state.

They were suffering to a great extent from disease and debility.

They were very inadequately housed, i. e., they were supplied with tarpaulins on poles but not sufficient for the number and for the state of disease.

When I arrived, there was no organization whatever and several days elapsed before I could ascertain the precise number then on the Island; but on the 12th of March I ascertained that there were 477 souls then alive.

About 140 persons had died previous to my arrival. There were 59 deaths between the day of my arrival and 12th of March.

It is my opinion that the Register of Deaths kept previous to my arrival was defective, and cannot be relied on, and I came to this conclusion from comparing the reputed number of men embarked, the number of deaths on board, the mortality during the time I was on the Island myself, and the number remaining alive when I left the Quarantine Station.

I cannot exactly state the number of men in each tent, nor the number of tarpaulin tents. The men were scattered all over the eastern side of the Island, some under tarpaulins and some under trees, without any organization. There was no Hospital; the healthy were mixed with the sick.

I found three wooden huts already standing when I arrived, one of which was occupied by the carpenters employed in erecting the others.

There were besides three houses, one of which was used as a store, and the two others in the occupation of the Police.

In addition to these, there was a Hospital hut in course of construction.

One of the buildings occupied by the Police was, by my orders, converted into a 31st May 1856.
lodging for the Coolies.

There were afterwards 25 huts erected, which gave sufficient accommodation for all the immigrants.

When I arrived on the spot, 8 carpenters were already there, sent by Government. They had a sufficient supply of materials to carry on their work; later a fresh supply of materials arrived.

According to my calculations, the total number of deaths amounted to 271. The various causes of deaths were as follows:—83 from Cholera, 90 from dysentery, 58 from fever, 9 from dropsy, and 31 from miscellaneous causes. The average mortality throughout the Quarantine was 2.46 a day. Before I arrived the average mortality was 3.5, and after my arrival it was 1.87.

¶ The highest rate of mortality in any one day was 11. This occurred on the 27th of January, according to the report. I am doubtful, however, of the accuracy of that report.

On the 13th and 19th of February, there were 10 deaths each day.

All the deaths recorded on the 27th of January were of Cholera, to the best of my belief.

The highest mortality since my arrival was 7, on the 26th, and I think two were from Cholera.

The accurate information on this point may be had on a reference to the Register, which was officially sent to the Chief Medical Officer.

The aggregate mortality is very considerable in proportion to the number of men sent there.

I attribute the extent of this mortality to the insufficiency of shelter.

Q. Is this want of shelter the only cause of mortality?

A. I have no hesitation in saying that the chief cause of mortality amongst the Indians was the insufficiency of the shelter provided. I consider it possible that the previous health of some of the immigrants may have rendered them more liable to the ill effects of this insufficiency, as, from inquiries which I have instituted, I have reason to believe that the Medical inspection of the immigrants previous to embarkation in India is very imperfectly performed.

The health of the immigrants of these two ships, on embarkation, was stated to be perfectly good, whereas, in the case of the *Futtay Mombarrack*, on the afternoon of the day of embarkation, no less than 6 men and 1 woman, the latter a perfect skeleton, reported themselves ill with dysentery and diarrhoea. This I have had on the statement of the Native Doctor in charge of the *Futtay Mombarrack*. I was not able to obtain any similar information from the Native Doctor of the *Hydere*, as the latter had died previous to my arrival.

As to the debility which I observed on my arrival, I do not attribute it to any deficiency of food, but to the want of organization; some of the people were so weak that they could hardly cook their food.

The Staff of the establishment, under the special circumstances, was numerically very insufficient.

The fever which prevailed there was of a peculiar nature, and most probably was occasioned by the circumstances which I have just detailed.

The state of the weather also contributed greatly to the progress of the disease; there was very bad weather in the beginning of the Quarantine.

31st May 1856. These two Islands are very healthy ; it was proved on former occasions

During a better season the mortality would probably have been much less.

I do not think that, under the circumstances, it was possible to provide better accommodation for the Coolies, they themselves being perfectly helpless.

I cannot say whether there were sufficient Medical comforts before my arrival, but after my arrival they were sufficient, although I could not procure them immediately.

There is no doubt that the three cases of Cholera which I saw on the Quarantine Station were Asiatic Cholera, and, from the reports I had from Mr. Finlay of the symptoms of the cases he saw, they were of the same nature.

I am disposed to believe there was no case of Cholera on board the *Hydere* and *Futtay Mombarrack* until their arrival at the Bell Buoy. I came to this conclusion from the report of the Native Doctor of the *Futtay Mombarrack*, of whom I entertain a very high opinion. This observation applies only to the *Futtay Mombarrack* ; I cannot speak as regards the *Hydere*, the Native Doctor being dead.

I cannot account for the outbreak of Cholera at Gabriel Island ; I think cases had occurred on board, at the Bell Buoy, before the vessels went down to the Quarantine Station.

Q. At the time of your arrival on the Island, and during your stay there, what precautions were taken to prevent communication with the main land ?

A. Quarantine flags were kept constantly flying, and the Police were kept constantly on duty night and day.

I think on both Flat and Gabriel Islands there were 25 Policemen.

I am perfectly satisfied that during the time I was on the Island, no communication took place.

Provisions were landed from the Steamer on Gabriel Island, with every due precaution.

On the 26th of February the Mate of the Steamer, Johnson, was ill, of the symptoms of Cholera, as I have been informed by a note from the Captain after I had landed on the Island, but he recovered at the time, and died subsequently of a fresh attack, I think about 10 days after.

I know nothing of the creole Alfred who is stated to have returned in the Steamer on the 26th, and to have died during the night.

It is possible, but not easy, to cross on foot from Flat to Gabriel Island, at low water. I believe the prisoners were in the habit of doing so before Gabriel Island was in Quarantine.

Since my return I have had several opportunities of seeing Cholera cases, and I am able to say that they are similar to those which I saw at Gabriel Island.

Before closing the examination of Mr. Finnimore, the Committee request him to favor them with a general report on the state in which he found Gabriel Island when he landed there, and also his views on the Quarantine establishment—which the witness is willing to comply with.

Signed : T. A. FINNIMORE.

James Dowland, The Honorable the Acting Colonial Secretary again appears before the Committee, and hands in the document he had engaged to deliver, to wit :—
Acting Colonial Secretary.

A Report from the Chief Medical Officer, dated 19th April 1856, and corrects

his statement of the 27th instant, to the effect that the two soldiers died, and adds : 31st May 1856.

I find by this Report that they did not die, and that the case of the woman took place between the 4th and 5th of March, and proved fatal on the 7th.

I beg to hand in, also, a letter to my address, from the Protector of Immigrants, under date the 28th instant, enclosing a corrected return of the immigrants landed in Quarantine at Flat and Gabriel Islands, and to observe that when I handed in the incorrect return, I forgot, as it was not on the return stated, that the Coolies of the *Sultana* had been landed on Gabriel Island.

With reference to a question put to me at the last meeting, I beg to make the following statement :—

The French ship *Bordeaux* arrived from Pondicherry, with Coolies, for Guadeloupe on the 4th of December 1855, and was placed in Quarantine for having had sickness, supposed to be Cholera, amongst the Coolies.

She had on board the Commander, 3 Mates, and 25 seamen of the ship *Ann Rose*, bound from Liverpool to Calcutta, and abandoned at sea, who were, on the 8th of December, put into a boat which was towed by the steam tug down to Gabriel Island, whence they, being entirely free from disease, were removed to Mauritius on the 4th of January, in company with the Coolies of the *Progress*, landed at Gabriel Island on the 10th of December, on account of small pox.

Signed : J. DOWLAND.

Serjeant DORAN, on oath, says :

2nd June 1856.

My name is Matthew Doran, Serjeant of Police.

Serjeant Doran.

I was sent in the first instance to the Quarantine Station, on the 13th of February, but was unable to land, on account of the bad weather. I went again on the 19th of that month, when I landed at Gabriel Island.

I went at the request of the Superintendent of Police, to do the duty of a Police Serjeant at the Quarantine.

My duty was to look after the Constables, and to prevent all communication with persons approaching the Quarantine.

On my arrival there I found Serjeant Browne and three European Constables.

There was also one Indian peon there.

I took with me one peon when I went there.

On the 29th of February, to the best of my belief, a further reinforcement of one Acting Serjeant and 8 Constables arrived, and I divided the force into two divisions.

Myself and the Acting Serjeant took the duty every 24 hours alternately, night and day.

I posted two sentries by night when I had a sufficient number of men ; (sometimes some of these were ill, when only one was placed.) By day one sentry only was posted.

These men were so placed as to prevent communication from any where, and when a boat was seen approaching, the whole force turned out.

2nd June 1856. I consider that the Police force that was on the Island was sufficient to prevent any communication, and I am satisfied that during the time I was there no communication took place.

No attempt at communication was ever made during my stay there, i. e., from the 19th of February to the 6th of May.

When provisions were landed on the beach, the Coolies were sent away to the rear about 400 yards.

The landing place is on the leeward side of the Island.

Before my arrival, and until the 29th of February, when the reinforcement arrived, there was only one man on duty night and day.

I do not think that one man was sufficient to do duty as sentry, and therefore it was that the reinforcements were sent for.

I think that one sentry was sufficient communication from Flat Island and from the sea, but not sufficient at the same time to take charge of the provision store.

I have heard it said that the Coolies employed at Flat Island were in the habit of passing over to Gabriel Island before my arrival, but it never could be brought home to them in any way.

When I arrived at Gabriel Island there was great sickness among the Coolies.

They were lodged in huts covered with thatch and tarpaulins.

There was not sufficient shelter for the Coolies at first, but planks were sent by the same Steamer that brought me over, and the following day the carpenters came from Flat Island, (three came out in the Steamer with myself,) and erected buildings.

The carpenters put up the buildings in a rough way, with great rapidity, and afterwards, when the men were all housed, they finished them.

The carpenters remained on Gabriel Island after the work was done until they returned to Port Louis.

For several days after my arrival the weather was bad; one morning, especially, there was much heavy rain, with thunder and lightning; afterwards the weather was generally fine.

I think the Coolies suffered a great deal from the rain; their huts were not sufficiently strong to keep out the rain, and they were also greatly crowded.

When I got up that morning I found five or six of them lying out of doors, huddled together to keep themselves warm, I presume because the tents were too crowded to enable them to stop in.

The Coolies had plenty of provisions, and I also observed Dr. Finlay and Sergeant Browne administer Port wine and rum to the sick.

There were a good many of Indians who were too weak to cook their own food.

After Dr. Finnimore's arrival, the Coolies were told off to cook for the sick, under the superintendence of a Constable.

Before Dr. Finnimore's arrival, there was no arrangement for cooking their food; their comrades cooked for them.

The men remained on the windward side of the Island from the 19th to the 26th of February, and they suffered much on account of the bad position and dampness of the encampment, and the distance from the landing place.

There were about 500 in number.

The two first nights, whilst the provisions were being landed, they returned to 2nd June 1856. their original huts; subsequently an order was given for them to remain on the _____ windward side.

I believe this order was given by Dr. Finlay.

The distance from one part of the Island to another is not great, but the sick men, many of them, had to be carried.

There was a sufficiency of water on the Island during my stay.

I saw from a distance the men landing provisions, but I had no knowledge of the man called Alfred, of whom I have heard spoken.

I heard that he died of Cholera on board the Steamer.

During my stay at the Quarantine Station, the men of the contractor never slept on shore, nor have I heard that they did so before my arrival.

Signed : MATHEW DORAN.

Evidence of Mr. KERSWILL, on oath :

My name is Watkin Tench Kerswill, Commander of the *Victoria* Steamer, and Pilot attached to the Port Department. Mr. Kerswill,
Commander of the
Steamer *Victoria*.

I commanded that Steamer each time she went to Flat Island.

The first time I went in the *Victoria* was on the 26th of February; I went down with provisions and firewood; I took no person on board to Gabriel Island.

I had no special instructions for that voyage.

I returned the same day.

I took on board the Steamer the Creole man Alfred, who was taken sick at about 11 o'clock, A. M.

Alfred belonged to the crew of the contractor's boat, and had his brother, named Pierre, on board as a stoker.

The contractor's boats were towed from Port Louis to Gabriel Island and back again on that day.

Alfred was employed in landing provisions until he was taken sick on that day.

I gave Alfred a glass of brandy, which appeared to do him good.

Later, on his complaining again, I gave him brandy and pepper, and when we arrived at Port Louis I thought that he was doing better; I then went on shore.

At about 10 o'clock at night, on Alfred suffering more, Medical assistance was had from Dr. Labat, who pronounced his case hopeless, and a decided case of Cholera.

My attention was first called to his case at about 11 A. M.; I found him vomiting slightly, and complaining of violent pains in the stomach, but I did not know what was the nature of his disease.

As far as I recollect, the man did not purge.

Subsequently to the man's death, I was told by the contractor or one of his men, that Alfred, before he left Port Louis that morning, had taken a dose of castor oil, and had drank a great deal of water and some rum during the passage down.

2nd June 1856.

I was aware that Cholera and several other diseases were prevalent at Gabriel Island at the time, and that in consequence all communication had been prevented for some time past.

I do not know the symptoms of Cholera, and I could not suppose that the man was attacked with that disease.

To the best of my recollection, on the return of the Steamer, I made a report to Mr. Spencer, the Assistant Harbour Master, that a man was ill on board, but I gave by mistake the name of Pierre, Alfred's brother, instead of the name of Alfred. The consequence was that Mr. Spencer, seeing Pierre at his usual duty, took no notice of the report.

I think I myself landed at half-past nine that night; we arrived at nine; I landed so soon as we made the Steamer fast.

All the crew, except the usual watch, came on shore that same night.

I did not hear of Alfred's death until the next morning at about 6 o'clock, when I went on board.

As soon as the Steamer is moored, my duty is at an end; I return to my duty of Pilot; the Mate remains in charge of the Steamer.

I should decidedly have anchored the Steamer outside the Bell Buoy if I had the least idea that the man was taken ill with Cholera; but neither I, nor any body on board, had the least idea that the man had got the Cholera.

Q. Was it not your duty, knowing that you had a sick person on board, and your coming from an infected place, to assure yourself what was the matter with the sick man before you allowed any communication with the shore?

A. No, I do not consider it my duty, an account of the precautions which were taken at Gabriel Island to prevent any communication between it and the Steamer; I never contemplated the possibility of infection being communicated to any of the men.

The precautions taken to prevent communication were as follows:

The provisions were landed on Gabriel Island at high water mark, on a spit of sand, and whilst they were so being landed, none of the Coolies were allowed to approach within 200 or 300 yards, and it was only when the boats retired from the landing place that the Coolies came down to carry away the stores.

To the best of my knowledge Alfred visited Gabriel Island several times in the contractor's boat.

As far as I am personally concerned, I can affirm that the same precautions were taken as those above narrated when I was present, but I know nothing of what took place on other similar occasions, when I was not in command.

I do not recollect how many times I have been to Gabriel Island since the 1st of January, but after reference to my log book, I beg to state that I have been there only once, on the 14th of January; I returned on the 15th.

Q. You thought that it was not necessary to prevent communication with the main land on the death of Alfred on account of the precautions which were taken at Gabriel Island on the landing of the provisions; how could you rely on those precautions when you did not personally go to the Quarantine Station except on the 14th of January?

A. I cannot answer for the acts of others.

On the 26th of February, Johnson, the Mate of the Steamer, was not taken ill, but he was so on the subsequent voyage. I sent a note to Dr. Finimore, reporting

the same, and received in return a powder and some castor oil, which I administered to the Mate, and he was cured. 2nd June 1856.

I do not know when the Mate died; I myself was at the same time ill from Cholera on shore.

When the note was sent on shore to Dr. Finnimore, every precaution was taken to prevent communication.

Signed: WATKIN T. KERSWILL.

3rd June 1856

Evidence of Dr. FINLAY, on oath :

Dr. Finlay.

My name is Frederick Spencer Finlay, Surgeon.

I came here from Calcutta about the latter end of last year.

I was employed on the 14th of January, by the Chief Medical Officer, under Government to take charge of the indians in Quarantine at Gabriel Island.

I went there in the Steamer on the 14th of January.

I received no special instructions from the Chief Medical Officer except to take charge of the Coolies in Quarantine.

I arrived at Flat Island at 7 or 8 o'clock in the evening, where I remained for the whole night, having no means of crossing over to Gabriel Island.

On the following morning about 7 or 8 o'clock I went over to Gabriel Island in a boat, where I found a lot of indians amounting to about 700 scattered along the beach and huddled together, some under temporary huts and in a most wretched condition.

When I arrived, I found on the Island a Serjeant and 4 Constables and they were engaged in organizing the indians and finding covering for them.

I then proceeded to administer to the sick and I venture to affirm that more than two thirds of these were in a state of sickness.

There was a so called Hospital, but it consisted mainly of tarpaulins stretched upon poles similar to the temporary huts above described.

I did not find a sufficiency of medicines.

There was a medicine chest very badly furnished.

I applied as soon as possible for fresh medicines.

For instance, I found no quinine and when I applied for some, I received a very inadequate supply.

On my arrival at Gabriel Island I found the prevailing ailments to be diarrhea and preminitory symptoms of fever.

In the course of a few days I had two cases of Cholera which I immediately reported to the Chief Medical Officer and I received an answer in reply requesting me to state what the symptoms were that induced me to think that it was Cholera. I stated in reply that the symptoms were those of Asiatic Cholera.

I think I can produce the letter of the Chief Medical Officer and I beg to refer

31 June 1856. you to that Officer for my report as well as for my answer to his letter as I kept no copies of letters or accounts from the press of business to which I had to attend.

It was not until I had been several days on Gabriel Island that I ascertained the presence of a native Doctor there.

There were also two other Doctors on the Island, one of whom remained sick all the time and the other died about a fortnight after my arrival.

Sometime after my stay at Gabriel Island, Serjeant Browne who was my Chief Assistant was taken ill, when the whole charge of the Island, police and otherwise devolved upon myself.

The two first cases of Cholera to which I have alluded proved fatal ; from which time the Cholera increased very rapidly.

There died altogether at Gabriel Island about 280 persons from all causes from the 14th of January to the 11th of May when I left the Island ; the greater number died from dysentery, next from fever, and there were fewer deaths from Cholera than the other two causes.

I cannot remember how many persons died of Cholera and I beg to refer to my Medical note book left to my successor at Gabriel Island and to my reports to the Chief Medical Officer.

On Dr. Finnimore's arrival, he furnished the reports to which I also refer.

I cannot say from recollection the proportion of deaths as compared with the number of sick.

I consider the mortality of about 280 persons out of about 700 very great.

I consider one of the principal causes of the great mortality at Gabriel Island at the commencement in particular arose from the destitute state in which the indians were then placed.

There was a deficiency of clothing.

There were sufficient provisions regularly given out, but they had no proper means of cooking their food ; for instance they were generally obliged to cook outside and when it rained their fires went out.

They had plenty of fuel and iron pots to cook with.

I suppose the small cooking utensils belonged to the indians and the large ones were furnished by Government ; there was no want, as far as I observed.

I found no medical comforts when I arrived and I made a requisition, as far as I recollect, for sago, sugar, brandy, wine, etc., to be distributed as I considered necessary.

I applied for those medical comforts 8 or 10 days after my arrival and received a very small quantity and very inadequate to the wants.

I received for instance, at one time, 3 bottles of brandy and 2 or 3 bottles of wine ; about ten days afterwards I received a second supply also of limited quantity.

At the commencement the weather was very bad and changeable.

I consider that the men suffered very much on account of the weather.

Latterly there were 3 serjeants and about 12 constables on Gabriel Island ; some of the constables were sick at first from over work but subsequently when

their number was increased and the work more regularly distributed they enjoyed good health, with one exception. 3rd June 1856.

The Police force consisted mostly of Europeans ; there was no death amongst them.

They were better provided and housed than the Indians.

I think that if the Indians had been equally well provided for at the commencement, the mortality would have been undoubtedly less.

I cannot at all account for the two first cases of Cholera on Gabriel Island, the native Doctor of the *Futtay Mombarrack* informed me that there was no Cholera on board during the voyage.

I think the men of the *Hyderee* had landed when I arrived ; I could get no information at all on the subject from the native Doctor of this Ship.

Question : Do you think that, these men being taken ill on the day after their arrival on an uninhabited Island, like Gabriel Island, it can be admitted that the Cholera with which they were attacked originated on the Island itself?

Answer : I am unable to answer that question ; I cannot state the cause of the outbreak of Cholera, nor do I think can any man do so.

I am unable to state the period of incubation of Cholera.

I think that Cholera may be communicated by clothes.

To prevent communication with the steamer or the contractor's boat we had always a police sentry on guard.

I do not recollect the exact day when the yellow flag was hoisted on the Island

No further communication took place between the steamer or the Contractor's boat and Gabriel Island than that allowed by the Quarantine Laws.

I never heard of any Convict having been across the reef to Flat Island.

On my arrival the Police force was insufficient for the purpose of preventing all communication and I applied for more, at the same time I do not believe that any communication ever took place.

I went from Gabriel to Flat Island on ten or twelve different times, sometimes to visit the sick and sometimes for my own private affairs.

It was not until I had been at Gabriel Island for about a month that I paid my first visit to Flat Island.

Communication between the two Islands is easy, I think I could walk across the reef ; I never saw any Indians or any other person crossing over.

I know that there was a Police force at Flat Island, but I cannot say how many they were ; neither do I know what their orders were.

I knew nothing of Mrs. Creed's death at the time, I even never heard of her being sick.

It was said that she died of Cholera.—

The precautions taken on the landing of provisions &c. consisted in removing the Indians to a distance of about 200 yards from the beach ; their encampment is at a distance of about 1000 yards from the beach.

I was in the habit of sending or permitting the Indians to the beach ; but whenever a boat was seen approaching, they were ordered to retire to 200 yards distance.

3rd June 1856.

It is possible that provisions were landed on the same place where a short time before, the Indians had been standing; I have seen them there and I have myself occasionally ordered them to retire.

There was no change in the mode of landing the provisions during my stay there.

The old huts were erected near the landing place but the new ones are further off, at about 3,000 yards

Upon reflection witness says that he has made a wrong estimate of the distance and corrects his statement as follows: the old huts stand at the distance of about 120 yards and the new at about 300 from the landing place.

The new huts were commenced about the 25th or 26th of February.

The possibility of perceiving the smell of the smoke from the huts would depend upon the direction of the wind; but it would not be probable to smell any thing that might be cooking.

The camp is to the leeward of the Island and to windward of the landing place.

I never sent the Indians to another side of the Island, but they have been so sent contrary to my wish by order of Dr. Hardie, because he wanted to have temporary communication with the Island.

The Indians remained there two days, they were sent in the morning, returned in the evening and were sent again the next day.

It was contrary to my wish because they were exposed to the extreme heat of the Sun while if they had remained in their huts, they would have found shelter.

I affirm that they remained only two days.

When I communicated with Dr. Hardie, I walked down to the beach and stood at a certain distance; he remained in his boat.

We spoke from that distance, about 200 yards.

Our conversation lasted only about a few minutes.

At that time we had not a sufficiency of medicines.

(Signed) F. S. FINLAY.

7th June 1846,

Continuation of Mr. Kerswill's evidence:

Mr. Kerswill.

Before proceeding with his examination, Mr. Kerswill states: I wish to correct the statement which I made in my previous examination to the effect that no person was a passenger on board the Steamer to Flat Island on the 26th of February; on reference to the logbook of the Steamer I find that Dr. Finimore went to Flat Island on board the Steamer on that occasion.

When I went to Flat Island on the 14th of January on board the "*Lord Fitzroy Somerset*" several passengers went with me. There were Mrs. Spencer, a young lady, Mr. Bauckham, and others whose names I do not recollect.

These parties landed on Flat Island as I did myself, but not on Gabriel Island.

We all slept on shore that night at Flat Island; Mr. Clement remained on board.

I am unable to state without reference to my logbook what things I took 7th June 1856. with me on occasion; but I think they were tarpaulins, poles &c, &c, for _____ Gabriel Island and provisions for both Islands.

As I came to an anchor at the Island I found the *Futtay Mombarrack* preparing to get under weigh after landing her Coolies; as I was leaving the next day, I saw the *Hydere* beating up to the anchorage for the purpose of landing her Coolies.

On the 23rd of April, I landed the provisions differently from what the custom had been up to that time; I made use of a pontoon or flat bottomed boat which was there, deposited the provisions therein, this boat was then towed towards the shore and the provisions taken from it by the men on the Island, who were obliged to go into the water to do so.

I received orders from the Acting Harbour Master to make use of the pontoon as above described.

I recollect having towed this pontoon to Flat Island some time before, I believe last year, for the purpose of cutting a new pass.

I did receive instructions to put the Steamer in Quarantine after visiting Flat and Gabriel Islands, but not until after the death of Alfred.

(Signed) WATKIN T. KERSWILL.

Mr. Clement on oath says:

Mr. Clement.
Master of the
Steam Tug.

My name is Henry Thomas Clement, Master of the Steam Tug.

I recollect having gone to Flat Island on the 14th of January on board the Steamer "*Lord Fitzroy Somerset*", as assistant to Mr. Kerswill.

The Island was not then in quarantine.

There were several passengers on board; they went and slept on shore at Flat Island.

The *Futtay Mombarrack* was at anchor when we arrived, she had landed her passengers on Gabriel Island and got under weigh shortly afterwards.

We held no communication with the *Futtay Mombarrack*.

Dr. Finlay was amongst the passengers and landed on Flat Island.

We arrived there between 4 and 5 P. M.

The *Hydere* was beating up to the island when we left the following day in the afternoon.

We had no communication whatever with Gabriel Island.

Both ships, when I first made them out, carried the yellow flag.

I do not know when the *Hydere* anchored at the Quarantine Station, but I do not think it could be until the day following.

On the 14th January we landed provisions on both islands, and tarpaulins and huts at Gabriel Island.

The Quarantine Flag was landed on Gabriel Island on the 23rd of February.

I cannot tell how many tents were landed at Gabriel Island on the 15th January;

7th June 1856. but the vessel was loaded with provisions, firewood, tarpaulins, tents, a few poles, &a, &a.

I do not know how the Coolies in Quarantine were sheltered during that night but the weather was fine.

I returned again to Gabriel Island on the 20th in command of the Steamer *Lord Fitzroy Somerset* and took with me a supply of water, namely 49 casks.

I had no communication with either Flat or Gabriel Island on this occasion.

On the 7th of the following month, I had communication with Flat Island not knowing it was in Quarantine, when Mr. Autard, the contractor, landed the provisions for Mr. Creed and other people there.

The boat with Mr. Autard and his crew left the Island for the Steamer during the night.

Next morning, Mr. Creed, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Wilson or Mason (not sure of the name) and Mr. Smith came along side to enquire the news; these persons were residing at the time on Flat Island.

Mr. Smith during the same day came on board and informed me that he had two prisoners to send to town; I told him I had no orders to take any one on board the Steamer but if he chose to put them in the contractor's boat he might do so; this was done.

The contractor's boat with these two prisoners was not in tow of the Steamer, but came to Port Louis under sail.

As regards myself, I was altogether ignorant of the fact that Flat Island was in Quarantine and as regards the persons residing on the island I am quite certain that they also were ignorant of it, and it was not until after the third voyage after this occasion when I took with me the Quarantine Flag and staff that the above mentioned persons became aware that the island was in Quarantine.

On the 12th and 14th of February Dr. Clerihew accompanied me to the Quarantine Station and on account of bad weather he could not communicate on either occasion.

On the former occasion it was that he informed me that Flat Island was in Quarantine.

Up to this time I received no instructions respecting Quarantine as regards Flat Island.

The Proclamation placing the Islands in Quarantine was never brought to my notice.

No sickness prevailed at Flat Island on the 7th February.

It was on the 12th that Mrs. Creed died, I was there at the time.

I had no communication with Flat Island, but the provisions for both Islands were landed on Gabriel Island by the Contractor, those for the former being set apart they were conveyed to Flat Island by the boat which carried water from Flat to Gabriel Island.

I heard from Mr. Johnson, Chief Officer of the Steamer, when he came on board, that Mrs. Creed had died.

(Signed :) H. CLEMENT.

When I was sent to the Quarantine Station, I understood that both Islands were under my charge, the sick as well as the healthy. 10th June 1856.

Dr. Finlay.

On my arrival I found the condition of the people very unsatisfactory and one of the first steps I took to improve their condition was to see that their huts were properly secured so as to keep out the wet.

The Serjeant of Police had charge of the provisions, but I did not give any special instructions respecting the duties to be performed by the Police on my arrival.

I saw no necessity to come to any understanding with the Police, with respect to establishing any system with reference to their duties; I found them a very efficient set of men, and serjeant Browne in particular.

I was too much occupied with the sick to give up my time to details, and moreover I saw no occasion for it. I did not appoint any cooks nor any person to superintend the cooking, the indians cooking for themselves.

I noticed in some cases that the men were unable to cook for themselves, on account of sickness, in which case they were voluntarily assisted by their comrades.

(Signed) F. S. FINLAY.

Mr. Clement's evidence continued :

Mr. Clement.

Mr. Johnson was informed of the death of Mrs. Creed by the boatman of the pirogue that conveyed water from Flat to Gabriel Island; the parties hailed each other, and in answer to the question as to the cause of the flag being hoisted half mast, it was said because Mrs. Creed had died.

I know nothing at all respecting a sick workman belonging to Flat Island having taken a passage in the contractor's boat to Grand Bay.

During the whole time that I visited the Islands, and my last trip was on the 23rd February, the provisions were landed as I have already described on a previous occasion.

On the 23rd February, the Steamer took in tow the contractor's boat, and I recollect Alfred being in the boat; he was employed during the day in landing the provisions in the usual manner.

I know Alfred, he was formerly steward on board the *Lord Fitzroy Somerset*, and was discharged for drunkenness.

I received instructions signed by the Chief Medical Officer dated 1st February; they were conveyed to me by the Acting Harbour Master on the 6th of the same month; I always acted strictly upon those instructions on my several visits to the island; I did not know that Flat Island was in Quarantine as my instructions were confined solely to Gabriel Island.

On the 20th January when I took water to Flat Island I had no instructions respecting Quarantine, but no communication took place, because the casks of water were thrown over board and towed towards shore and then handed over to the water boats employed between the Islands.

I had no instructions for placing the Steamer in Quarantine in case on her return from the Islands she had any sickness on board.

If disease had broken out on board during my command, I certainly would not have come inside the harbour.

(Signed :) H. CLEMENT.

16th June 1856. Evidence of Mr. Spencer on oath.

Mr. Spencer,
Assistant Har-
bour Master.

My name is Edward Spencer, I am assistant Harbour Master,

I was in the Port Department when the *Hyderce* and *Futtay Mombarrack* arrived ; Captain Kelly was then Harbour Master.

These two vessels were placed in Quarantine.

When a coolie ship arrived and was reported by the Health Officer to be placed in Quarantine of observation, the steps taken by the Harbour Master were as follows : to send for the Quarantine Master and crew, to be placed on board a guard ship, (Mr. Chasteauneuf, mate in charge of the Steamer, was latterly employed as Quarantine Master) one of the Steamers was used as the guard Ship, if available, if not, some vessel was taken up for the purpose.

During the hurricane season, the Ship placed in Quarantine was brought up between the two forts ; at other seasons, she would be made to anchor outside the Bell Buoy.

In the former case, if there was only one Ship placed in Quarantine, the Steamer used as a guard Ship would not be shifted from her ordinary Quarantine anchorage off Fort George. A boat from the Steamer was ordered to row guard night and day to prevent communication from the shore.

If there were more than one vessel placed in Quarantine, the guard Ship would be moved to the other side of the Harbour, near Fort William between the Ships and the shore ; the Quarantine Ships themselves being moored on that side of the Harbour as having more room and having also the advantage of leaving the men of war station uninterfered with.

The guard boat was ordered to row night and day round those vessels.

In case of a Ship anchored outside the Bell Buoy and placed in Quarantine of observation, the guard vessel was placed right a head of the Ship to windward and a guard boat was rowing round the Ship during day and night.

There is no permanent Quarantine establishment, but there is a permanent Quarantine Master, and he can procure the necessary hands in five minutes.

Those hands are procured for the moment from the Lascars of the Port Department ; they are replaced by other hands as soon as they are procured.

Mr. Chasteauneuf is the Quarantine Master ; he is usually employed as mate in charge of the Steamers.

He receives extra pay when engaged as Quarantine Master.

To the best of my belief there has never been a vessel placed in Quarantine over which a guard has not been placed within 48 hours.

When a delay has occurred it arose from the difficulty of getting the guard boat ready, I mean the boat itself and not the crew.

When a vessel is definitively put in Quarantine, a Captain, Chief Officer and full crew are put on board the guard vessel to watch the Ship in Quarantine day and night.

In my opinion the measures taken by the Port Department in cases of temporary or permanent Quarantine are quite sufficient for the purpose intended.

The *Futtay Mombarrack* arrived, as far as I recollect, on a Friday or Saturday between the hours of twelve and four in the afternoon.

She was then visited by the Health Officer and the yellow flag was ordered to be hoisted on board of her.

So soon as the Harbour Master was aware of the vessel being in Quarantine he sent down the Steamer to watch her, for the evening and she anchored a head of her. 16th June 1856.

It was Sunday morning when the *Futtay Mombarrack* sailed to Flat Island and the *Hydere* the next day.

The *Hydere* arrived, as far as I recollect, about the same day as the *Futtay Mombarrack* but at a later hour. I mean the arrival from Calcutta.

The two vessels were in Quarantine together and watched by the same steamer.

The *Hydere* being short of water remained here one day longer and received her supply after which she sailed to Gabriel Island.

The same evening the Tug steamer went to Flat Island to land provisions at Flat Island and to bring here some shipwrecked seamen who had been left there by a french vessel.

Sealed instructions were given to the Captain of the *Futtay Manbarrack* and the Captain of the *Hydere* as to the measures to be taken by them on their arriving at the Quarantine Station.

I do not know when the two Islands were declared in Quarantine.

At that time no orders were given, to my knowledge, in the Department, stating that the Islands were placed in Quarantine, but I suppose that they must have been placed in Quarantine when the two vessels landed their people there.

I remember that it came to my knowledge about the 13th or 14th of February, that a proclamation putting one or both of these Islands in Quarantine was issued; but I am not quite sure whether both of the slands were placed in Quarantine.

On the 26th of February I was sent for by the mate of the Steamer *Victoria* moored in front of the Port Office and told by the second engineer that there was a man suffering on board. I immediately went to Dr. Labat, it was then about 11 o'clock at night; I took Dr. Labat on board; I was present when Dr. Labat examined Alfred, I held him in my arms.

Dr. Labat went on shore and sent immediately some medicines by Pierre, Alfred's brother.

I went on shore with him and heard the next morning at day light that Alfred had died at half past one.

Dr. Labat did not in my hearing state what was the matter with the man; but he called for water and soap to wash his hands.

I myself had no idea that the man had Cholera as his case in no wise resembled those I had seen in the Cholera of 1854.

I was not on board with Dr. Labat more than 10 minutes.

I had been on board before, but had not then seen the sick man.

I had been told by the Captain when on shore, that a man called Pierre was sick and having seen Pierre at work, I took no notice of it; I replied to the Captain that he must have got better as I had seen him at work.

I never went to Flat Island during the Quarantine; but Mr. Spencer, a nephew of mine, was there as second Assistant Light House Keeper.

I do not recollect what the steamer took down on her first voyage to Flat Island, after Quarantine was proclaimed.

16th June 1856. At the beginning Flat Island was not put in Quarantine as I recollect Mr Milward and some other gentlemen having gone there.

I superintend the Shipment of the provisions on board the steamer and I recollect on one occasion large cooking utensils being put on board the steamer for the Quarantine Station ; I do not know the number.

I am not aware of any instructions having been given to the Captain of the steamer to place his vessel in Quarantine in case of sickness breaking out on board on his return from the Quarantine Station, until after the death of Alfred when such instructions were given.

Signed : E. SPENCER,

17th June 1856. Mr. Autard on oath, says :

Mr. Autard. My name is Victor Autard, blacksmith, I am the Government Contractor for conveyance to Flat Island of provisions and stores of all kinds and also of the people from the Quarantine Station at the expiration of their Quarantine.

I have been the Government Contractor since these last fourteen or fifteen months and I am still so now.

I have no special knowledge of the Quarantine of the *Hyderee* and *Futtay Mombarrack*, I seldom go to Flat Island myself ; my boats are entrusted to the care of men employed by me and these are under the superintendence of an Officer specially sent for the purpose by the Port Office when the Islands are in Quarantine.

I went to Flat Island in the course of the month of February and did not return there until about a month ago.

I believe that it was on the 7th of February that I went there.

I was on board of the Steamer to look after the men and boats employed by me.

The Steamer had provisions for both Islands ; we landed first those that were for Gabriel Island and after, those that were for Flat Island on Flat Island.

We were employed on the 7th and 8th in landing the provisions and returned in the afternoon of the 8th.

I had no particular reason to go down there except to look after my men ; I landed on Flat Island with two of my men to cook some food and returned on board the Steamer at about 10 o'clock at night.

It was about 6 o'clock in the evening when I landed on Flat Island, I just then landed a boat load of provisions.

I was informed by Mr. Clement that I could land on Flat Island, Gabriel Island only being in Quarantine.

During the course of the same day, whilst I was on board the Steamer, I saw Mr. Spencer, Mr. Creed, Mr. Mason, and Mr. Smith come on board.

They arrived at about 10 o'clock A. M. and returned on shore at about 3 P. M.

The communication with the shore at Flat Island was free on that day.

Mr. Clement informed me that his instructions from the Port Office were relative to Gabriel Island and not to Flat Island.

On that day I saw from the Steamer the provisions carried by my boats deposited in a flat bottomed boat (Chaland) moored to a long rope lying some distance from the shore at Gabriel Island. 17th June 1856.

The flat bottomed boat (Chaland) was then hauled on shore by a rope by the men on Gabriel Island, who, after having got out the provisions, sent back the boat to her Station

Previous to the 7th of February I was informed by the man in charge of my boats that the provisions were taken from the boats and carried on shore on men's shoulders; this service was performed by lascars from the Steamer.

I complained of the delay attendant upon this mode of landing and told the Harbour Master that it would be better to employ for that service the flat bottomed boat (Chaland) which was then at Flat Island.

I affirm that on the 7th of February the landing of the provisions took place as I have before described.

My men were never employed in carrying provisions to the shore; this I know because it was orally agreed that this service shall not be performed by my men.

I have a written contract with the Surveyor General; that with the Harbour Master lasted one month only.

I do not know whether there was any communication between Flat and Gabriel Islands; on both occasions I went there, I saw none.

Communications are easy by boats between the two Islands; but on foot they can only take place at low water and by making a circuitous tour.

I have not myself crossed in that manner, but I have seen men formerly go across.

On the return of my contract boats, I took two convicts whom Mr. Smith sent to Port-Louis.

I handed them over to the Port Department which usually receives the men that I convey from Flat Island.

Mr. Smith told me that these two men had misbehaved themselves and that they were sent back on that account.

They were I suppose sent to the prison.

I did not hear the Captain of the Steamer refuse Mr. Smith to take these men on board; but as my boat with the two men in it, came alongside the Steamer, the Captain told them to go to Port Louis, that he would not take them in tow not to be troubled with these two men.

My boat gave passage to no man from Flat Island to Grand Bay; but I know that Mr. Lecacheur's boat took a workman who said that he was sick.

This workman was taken down to Grand Bay on the 10th and two or three days after he presented himself in my shop in town.

I believe that this man's name is Nelson, and that he is a mason.

Mr. Lecacheur had been the Government Contractor before me, but his boat was then employed for the correspondence.

On the 8th, when I was at Flat Island, early in the morning, I saw a pretty large boat, of three or four tons, belonging to Mr. Lisis, of Pointe aux Piments, which brought there as a passenger Mrs. Snelling, the wife of one of the Assistant Light House Keepers.

I saw the crew of the boat land her baggage, and carry it to the Light House.

17th June 1856. They were afterwards employed by me to land provisions. I required that assistance, having only one boat on that day.

I employed in my boats a Creole named Alfred.

He had been in my employ for more than one month when he died.

He had made several voyages to the Quarantine Station.

I know nothing of his death, as I was not on board that day. On the previous day Alfred was absent from work. He came at about 7 o'clock, P. M., to form part of the crew of my boat. I reproached him with being absent, and his excuse was that he had not been well, to which I replied that he did not seem unwell, but that probably he had not come to work, to avoid scraping the pitch from the boat.

After Alfred's death, Jasmin, his father, came to claim the wages due to Alfred, and told me that on the day Alfred was absent, Alfred had taken a dose of castor oil.

Alfred was a man of very intemperate habits.

Alfred had not spoken to me of the castor oil he had taken.

Alfred did not seem unwell; he appeared more as a man who had taken drink.

I do not know that Alfred had a wife; I had known him for about a month only.

Signed: VICTOR AUTARD.

23rd June 1856. Mr. HIPPOLYTE BELLEROSE, on oath, says:—

Mr. H. Bellerose. My name is Hippolyte Bellerose; I reside in the country, at a place called l'Arse-
nal; I am a fisherman.

On one single occasion I had charge of Mr. Autard's boat, to go down to Flat Island.

I was employed by Mr. Autard to replace one of his "patrons," I do not exactly recollect the date; it may be three or four months ago.

Gabriel Island was then in Quarantine.

The boat was empty on the voyage to the Quarantine Station, and was employed, when there, in landing stores from the Steamer.

The stores I landed in the boat, I had charge of, consisted in fuel only.

There was another boat employed in landing stores equally from the Steamer on that day.

The boat approached the shore within 10 paces; men from the crew of the Steamer took the wood from us, and carried it on shore. The people on shore were then at a distance equal to the distance from this to the wharf.

No communication took place between the crew of the Steamer landing the wood and the men on shore; the distance was too great.

When I had moved off from the shore, the people in Quarantine came for the wood.

I left Port Louis at 11 o'clock at night, in company with the other boat of Mr. Autard, and we arrived at Flat Island the next morning at 8 o'clock.

The Steamer was then there.

23rd June 1856.

I left the same day, at about 6 o'clock, in tow of the Steamer.

I know nothing particular with reference to the Quarantine ; I held no communication with Flat and Gabriel Islands, and no one came on board from thence.

I cannot sign.

Mr. A. Bellerose.

Mr. ARTHIDOR BELLEROSE, on oath, says : —

My name is Arthidor Bellerose ; I reside in town ; I am a mariner.

I was in charge of Mr. Autard's boat, and went to Flat Island more than twenty times from the beginning of this year.

I remember having gone to Flat Island during the same week when the passengers of two vessels were landed there, and placed in Quarantine.

The boat of Mr. Autard went down there to carry letters, and to assist in landing provisions from the Steamer.

When I carried letters, I deposited them in a pontoon, (chaland,) moored between Flat and Gabriel Islands.

The people on shore sent a small boat to take the letters from the pontoon, after we had moved off from her.

The provisions were landed in the pontoon in the same manner, and, after we had gone off, the pontoon was hauled towards the shore, and the provisions landed.

In the beginning the provisions were landed by the crew of the Steamer that carried them from our boat ; later, to save time, provisions were placed in the pontoon.

The provisions were landed on shore by the crew of the Steamer two or three times ; afterwards the pontoon was used.

The provisions were landed on Gabriel and on Flat Island, according to their destination.

When our boat and the men from the Steamer had moved off, the Coolies came for the provisions which had been deposited on shore ; during the landing they were at the distance of about a quarter of a mile.

I never went on shore on either Islands.

My crew never went on shore.

Mr. Autard has, to my knowledge, gone once to the Station, when I saw several persons from Flat Island go on board the Steamer ; I went myself, on that day, on shore, in company with Mr. Autard, to cook some provisions.

Previous to that day I may have made four or five trips to Flat Island, for the service of Quarantine, but I do not exactly recollect the date.

On that day the provisions were landed on shore by the crew of the Steamer ; the pontoon was not yet in use.

I only sailed once from Port Louis to Flat Island ; on all other occasions I was taken in tow by the Steamer ; on our return from Flat Island, I was always taken in tow of the Steamer.

My brother was on one occasion in charge of another boat belonging to Mr. Autard, and we then went to Flat Island together, under sail.

We left Port Louis at 8 o'clock, P. M., and arrived next morning, at 8 o'clock, at Flat Island.

The Steamer had arrived two hours before us.

23rd June 1856. I recollect that when Mr. Autard was with me at Flat Island, he hired, to assist us in landing provisions, a boat belonging to Pointe aux Piments, which arrived there about the same time with us.

I cannot say whether this boat had any passengers or whether she was there for the purpose of fishing.

Communication took place between the men of this boat and the shore.

I recollect having known Alfred, who was employed in my boat, and who was in the boat under my brother's charge on the day that he went to Flat Island; that man died on his return on that day from that voyage.

He was taken ill in the night, on going to Flat Island; he made one voyage in the boat, to land provisions; he was then too ill to continue, and he went on board the Steamer, where he had a brother called Pierre.

He made previously three or four voyages in my boat.

He never went on shore.

I cannot say how many days before Alfred had gone with me to Flat Island: I used to accompany the Steamer upon every trip, and sometimes I went there without the Steamer, for the purpose of conveying letters.

I cannot say of what disease Alfred died; I never heard any thing about the cause of his death.

On that day my boat was towed on her return by the Steamer, and was not placed in Quarantine in Port Louis.

The Steamer was not then placed in Quarantine; every body landed, as usual.

The next morning after Alfred's death, the Steamer was placed in Quarantine, I do not know why.

On the day Alfred was taken ill, provisions were landed on shore, the pontoon had not then been made use of.

I cannot sign.

Mr. H. Bellerose.

Mr. HIPPOLYTE BELLEROSÉ being recalled, says:—

I know the man called Alfred who was in my boat the day I went to Flat Island.

On his departure from Port Louis, he complained of being unwell and was worse during the night; however he worked in the boat during her first trip to land provisions; finding him then getting worse I put him on board the Steamer and had another man from the Steamer to assist me.

On our return to town in the Steamer, he died during the night.

I do not know the cause of his death, I have not heard what it was.

I gave him no medicines, I do not know what they may have given him on board the Steamer.

On arrival here, my boat was not placed in Quarantine.

After Alfred's death the Steamer was placed in Quarantine and I do not know why.

I cannot sign,

24th June 1856.

Continuation of Mr. FINLAY's examination.

Mr. Finlay.

I found no necessity to give any specific instructions to the Police under my charge at the Quarantine Station as they performed their duty in a satisfactory manner.

I consider the special duty of the Police was to prevent communication, which I believe they did effectually, their further duty was to keep peace and regularity amongst the indians.

The native Doctor who acted as my assistant was charged with the duty of administering the medicines prescribed by me.

The day of my arrival a Hospital was erected but it was not sufficient to contain one fourth of the sick.

I did not get another hospital erected for the reason that the sick died so fast that they made room for others ; I had also no means of any disposal for that purpose.

In fact my own accommodation was very insufficient ; for some time I lived in a hut in common with the Police and had to mess with them or else to do without my food.

Generally the indians concealed their sickness until the last stage of diarrhea ; whenever they were reported sick, I ordered them into the Hospital.

In some cases when the Hospital was overcrowded and new patients brought to it, some of them were obliged to be out side in the open air day and night in order to keep them free from contact with the healthy.

Being asked : Do you not consider that it would have been better to have made the healthy persons lie out in the open air in order to afford shelter to the sick ?

Answer : No, decidedly not : because I have found that exposure to wet and cold of healthy indians would leave them open to disease and mortality.

Question : Was not exposure to wet and cold almost certain death to a person in an advanced stage of diarrhea ?

Answer : Yes.

Question : Did you consider yourself as the medical man in charge of the lives of these coolies justified in thus endangering the life of a sick person by exposure in order to avoid the risk of exposing a healthy man to wet and cold ?

Answer : I think so.

I wrote to the Chief Medical Officer to inform him of the insufficiency of Hospital accommodation.

I have no copy of the letter I wrote, I had no time to make copies of letters.

I have reason to believe that that letter was not delivered.

I believe it was sent down to the shore by a Police peon and delivered to the boat that was going to town.

The huts of the indians were day and night constantly visited by me to discover the sick, but in spite of my watchfulness they disguised their sickness.

Shortly after my arrival the average number of sick amounted to about 80 persons.

The indians were in the habit of fishing round Gabriel Island by day and by night and caught an abundance of fish.

24th June 1856. I cannot say but that some of these fish may have been of a poisonous character.

I am also of opinion that any peculiar electric state of the atmosphere may have exercised a prejudicial influence over the state of the convalescents and sick at Gabriel Island.

The people, while fishing, may have communicated with Flat Island but it is most improbable for the reason that had they done so, the guard I had placed over them would have reported the circumstance to me.

Signed : F. S. FINLAY.

Mr. Milward. Mr. MILWARD on oath, says :

My name is John Christian Curwen Milward—

On the 14th of January I went down in the steamer with Dr. Finlay ; we landed on Flat Island.

I went to Flat Island for the purpose of inducing the workmen who were there at the time to remain and also to look after the works and for purposes connected with the Civil Engineer's Department.

At that time, to my knowledge, there were on Gabriel Island 3 wooden huts, 27 x 17 each and besides there were materials for building about 3 more huts and about 30 tarpaulins 20 x 15 which had been recommended by a Committee appointed in October last to consider what accommodations were necessary to shelter 500 men.

There were also 125 poles and 100 lbs. of cord on Gabriel Island.

These materials did not go through the Civil Engineer's Office, therefore I could not state the number so exactly as I would otherwise do.

About the middle of February a large quantity of planks, about 15000 feet, and square pieces of timber were put at the disposal of the Government on loan by Mr. Bauckham, the Government contractor, for building the Quarantine Station and sent by the steamer to Gabriel Island.

At the same time Mr. Bauckham went in the steamer to the Quarantine Station and sent to Gabriel Island 8 Creole Carpenters and the Master Carpenter of the Civil Engineer's Department working at the time on Flat Island was prevailed to go over to Gabriel Island to direct the other Carpenters.

I know, by information sent by Mr. Mason, the Master Carpenter, that a week afterwards they had completed one Hospital 40 x 16 and sixteen huts 16 x 16 each.

Mr. Mason and the Carpenters did not leave Gabriel Island until the Quarantine was relieved.

I have gone to Gabriel Island several times ; the highest point is about 50 or 60 feet above the level of the sea ; it is of a stony nature with some vegetation, grass, brushwood and a few cocoa nut trees ; there are no very large trees on the Island.

Flat Island is very healthy and I see no reason to think that Gabriel Island is not equally so.

It is so easy to cross over from one island to the other that the workmen frequently do so on foot at low water ; the distance is about 1000 feet and it is not necessary to make a large circuitous tour.

I remember a workman named Nelson having left Flat Island in the month of

February ; he is borne on the pay list as having worked up to the 9th of that month , when he called at the Civil Engineer's Department for his pay, it was at first refused until notice had been given to the Chief Medical Officer. It would appear that the instructions sent out by myself to Mr. Smith in charge of the prisoners to inform him that Flat and Gabriel Islands were both in Quarantine from the 24th of January and that he should take care that no person be allowed to leave the Islands or to hold communication with boats or any people approaching the islands, did not reach him ; Mr. Smith denies having ever received these instructions.

(Signed) J. C. C. MILWARD.

The Chief Medical Officer is recalled and examined as follows :

30th June 1856.

Question : The Colonial Secretary being asked whether during the provisional Quarantine of the *Hyderee* and *Futlay Mombarrack*, sufficient precautions were taken to prevent communications ; answered : " I am not aware of any thing to the contrary, I am not charged with such matters, either as President of the Board of Health or as Colonial Secretary. Quarantine Laws and Regulations provide for such precautions being taken and the Chief Medical Officer is the Superintendent of Quarantine and has the control of the pratique " Do you concur in that opinion ?

Geo. Clerihew,
Chief Medical
Officer.

Answer : I do not entirely concur in that opinion ; the duties of the Superintendent of Quarantine have never been properly defined ; practically speaking the Harbour Master is always charged with putting a guard boat over a vessel in Quarantine.

Question : Do you consider it part of your duty to give any instructions to the Harbour Master on the subject of surveillance of vessels in temporary Quarantine ?

Answer : I believe it is part of my duty, and when I see any occasion for it, I certainly do it ; but as I have already stated my duties have never been properly defined with regard to that. By Ord. No. 37 of 1851, Art. 2, this duty belongs to the Board of Health.

Q. Do you recollect whether, with regard to the temporary Quarantine of these two ships, you gave any instructions to the Harbour Master ?

A. As far as I recollect, I did not ; at the time there was no contagious disease declared on board those vessels.

Q. The same witness states that on the 24th of January no measures had been taken by the Government to prevent communication with the Quarantine Station other than those which may have been taken by the Chief Medical Officer ; do you recollect whether, prior to the 24th of January, you took any such measures ?

A. I do not recollect ; I think it was about that time my first letter was written.

Q. Do you recollect that a Committee was appointed to investigate into an alleged communication with Flat Island ?

A. I recollect having heard of it.

Q. The Colonial Secretary being asked—" Assuming that the parties implicated were ignorant that the Island was placed in Quarantine, how do you account for their ignorance of the fact ? " answers : " I presume that the Chief Medical Officer had not communicated to them that Flat Island, as well as Gabriel Island, had been placed in Quarantine ; it was the duty of the Chief Medical Officer to make that communication. " Are you of that opinion ?

A. No, because the persons at Flat Island are not under my control, and never were ; they belong to the Surveyor General's Department ; it was the duty either of the Executive or of the Board of Health.

30th June 1856. Q. Whose duty do you consider it was to issue orders to furnish the yellow flags
and order them to be hoisted?

A. I never was in the habit of sending yellow flags to the former Lazaret, and yet they were always supplied, and I did not send any to the new Quarantine Station on the last occasion; I cannot say whose duty it was to have sent them.

I wish to correct an error of date which I committed on my previous examination; I stated that Dr. Finlay arrived at the Quarantine Station on the 17th, and I ascertained that he arrived there on the 14th; I cannot state on what date I received Dr. Finlay's letter, informing me that on his landing at the Quarantine Station he found there two men attacked with Cholera; it may have been on the 19th.

Q. The Colonial Secretary states in his evidence—"I believe it was not before the 24th January it was communicated to me that Cholera had broken out at Gabriel Island; the Chief Medical Officer communicated the circumstance orally to me, and reported the same officially on the 25th;" how do you account for this delay in your report?

A. In the first place, I do not recollect when I received Dr. Finlay's letter, but, so far as I can recollect, I reported to the Colonial Secretary verbally, as soon as I received it.

Q. Dr. Finlay, in his evidence, states that when he first went to the Quarantine Station he had no special instructions except to take charge of the Coolies in Quarantine; was that so?

A. It was so, because he was sent on a hurry; the Steamer was delayed while I was writing his letter of appointment.

Q. The same witness states that on his arrival, he found no quinine; when he applied for some, he received a very inadequate supply, why was not a sufficient supply sent?

A. He always had what he applied for, and was instructed to apply for more when necessary; nothing was refused to him.

Q. He states further on that he had no medical comforts, and that when he applied for some, he received a very inadequate supply; how do you account for this?

A. The quantity of medical comforts he had was considered sufficient, with a regular communication every five days, Coolies requiring generally very little of this kind of supply. As for wine and brandy, which might be abused, it was not considered advisable to send a large quantity at a time. Later, when the sick became numerous, large quantities were sent, but it was impossible to anticipate the amount of sickness that subsequently declared itself.

Some months previous to the death of Alfred, consequently before the appearance of Cholera here in 1856, I saw an unmistakeable case of Cholera in a soldier. The man was attended by Surgeon Docker, of the 5th Regiment. I will send in a statement of the case.

Signed: G. CLERIHEW.

5th July 1856. Mr. ARTHIDOR BELLEROSE being recalled, says:—

Mr. A. Bellerose. Alfred was employed with me for about three months.

He was an habitual drunkard.

I do not know whether Alfred had a wife or mistress; I know nothing about it.

I do not know where he lived, but Alfred himself told me he lived at Plaine Verte. 5th July 1856.

Whilst at Flat Island, suffering from colics, Alfred stated he had taken a dose of castor oil previous to leaving Port Louis.

I saw him drink cold water twice ; once before leaving town, and once at Flat Island.

When I stated, in my former evidence, that I had gone to Flat Island about twenty times, I meant to speak only of the trips on which I could land, as I have gone there more than 30 times in all.

I cannot sign.

Mr. MILWARD being recalled, says :—

Mr. Milward.

I wish to correct the number of feet of planks I have given, and, instead of 15,000 feet, I find that there were 19,600 feet of planks lent to Government by Mr. Bauckham.

Signed : J. C. C. MILWARD.

7th July 1856.

Mr. MONTGOMERY on oath, says :—

Dr. A. Montgomery.

My name is Alexander Montgomery ; I am Surgeon in Charge of the Civil Hospital.

There were 495 cases of Cholera admitted this year to the Hospital up to the 31st May, there were two cases more in the month of June, one on the 2d and the other on the 15th.

I made a report to the Government upon the subject some time after the 31st of May.

I request that this report be obtained from the Colonial Secretary, and submitted to this Committee for publication.

I consider the disease was epidemic Cholera.

In the month of February last a sailor was admitted to the Hospital, with the premonitory symptoms of Cholera ; these were, however, subdued, and the man returned to his duties on board.

The first real case of Cholera in Hospital was on the 6th of March ; the patient, called Samy, was admitted at 1 P. M., and died the next day at 5 A. M. This man was sent by the Municipality, and, I believe, picked up in the street.

Some days ago, I enquired of the brother of Alfred, stoker on board the *Victoria* if his brother Alfred was married ; he said : no, but he kept a mistress named Elisa with whom he had quarrelled and from whom he had separated six weeks or two months prior to his death ; that Elisa was still alive and resided at Flacq ; but said he " if you want any more information I will call out a person from the " boat who will give it to you." He subsequently made the same statement in the Port Office in the presence of Captain Wales. He then referred me for information to Arthidor Bellerose in charge of the boat. The same Arthidor Bellerose came to me at the Hospital on the following day and made the following statement : " that " Alfred and he had been employed together for 7 months ; that Alfred was an " habitual drunkard ; that he had neither wife nor mistress to his knowledge ; that " if he had, he Arthidor Bellerose must have known it ; that Alfred resided in Mala- " bards town ; but being of very irregular habits, sometimes slept in that place, " sometimes in another and sometimes in the boat in which he was employed ; " that they sailed from Port Louis for Gabriel Island at 8 P. M. prior to the sailing

7th July 1856. " of the *Victoria* Steamer and arrived there at half past 8 next morning ; that
 " Alfred complained of being ill, having taken a dose of castor oil prior to sailing,
 " and that he had nothing to drink but cold water. He became so much worse at
 " 10 o'clock that he was sent on board the Steamer where I have been informed
 " he was dosed with brandy and red peppers." In my opinion the history of this
 man, Alfred's case, as given above, was sufficient to have produced Cholera in
 men of even stronger constitution than Alfred was supposed to be.

Signed : ALEX. MONTGOMERY.

P. Jasmin.

PIERRE JASMIN on oath, says :

My name is Pierre Jasmin, Stoker, on board of the *Victoria*.

I am brother to Alfred who died on board the Steamer.

I cannot say of what disease he died.

He told me he had taken castor oil in the morning of the day he left for Flat Island, i. e., the day before his death.

Alfred was employed in Mr. Autard's boats and had made several voyages before his death to Flat Island.

I cannot say how the goods were landed, I work in the lower deck in the Steamer.

Alfred had a mistress from whom he had separated about a month previous to his death.

This woman called Elisa, lived in Camp Yolloff, where she still resides.

I cannot say where Labourdonnais street is.

I cannot say whether there has been of late any Cholera in Mauritius.

I cannot sign.

Chief Medical Officer.

The Chief Medical Officer being recalled, says :

When Dr. Finlay was sent to the Quarantine Station, no other Medical man could be got and it was a question therefore between him and no one ; moreover Dr. Finlay's education and qualifications appeared superior to those of the persons who had been formerly employed in that capacity.

The permanent appointment of the Quarantine was offered to several of the local practitioners who one and all declined it, adding that they were certain that I would not find any one to accept it.

I did not offer the temporary appointment to local practitioners because it was certain that none would like to lose their regular practice for the sake of an appointment of a few weeks.

Dr. Finnimore was not at first sent to the Quarantine Station, because he belongs to the staff and was not at the disposal of the civil authorities ; later I thought it expedient, from the urgency of the case and the number of sick, and also from the circumstance of the steamer having returned from the Quarantine Station upon two different trips without any report from Dr. Finlay, to recommend sending another medical man to take charge of the men in Quarantine ; in consequence, the permission of the Major General to dispose of Dr. Finnimore was obtained.

Being asked and not being at liberty to decline to answer I am bound to state that, from my experience of the manner in which Dr. Finlay discharged his duties whilst in charge of the Quarantine Station, I would not feel disposed to recommend him for further employment under the Government.

7th July 1856.

(Signed)

GEO. CLERIHEW

Mr. CHANNELL on oath, says :

14th July 1856.

My name is Francis Channell; I am the Editor of the *Commercial Gazette*.—

Mr. F. Channell,
Editor of the
Commercial Gazette.

I consider myself as being responsible for what appears in that paper.

Witness is referred to an article of the *Commercial Gazette* of 12th February last, commencing with "the reports which reach us from Flat Island are of a most distressing nature," and is asked the following question.

Question : In alluding to the number of deaths which had occurred at the Quarantine Station at that date, the article in question states that the state of things is attributable to a shameful neglect ; are you prepared to state in what respect there has been shameful neglect ?

Answer : I object to answer the question because I don't consider an Editor of a newspaper is bound to give up his authorities for any information or statement of facts that may appear in his Journal ; I am aware there is a special law for this particular inquiry, but don't consider that it extends to the Editors of newspapers, but to persons who have been ocular witnesses of what has taken place. I had information of what I published, from a sufficient authority to authorize me to publish the articles in questions ; I consider that the Press is only responsible before a Court of Justice.

Witness is referred to an article of the *Commercial Gazette* of 23rd February last commencing "with Gabriel Island" and is asked :

Question : Do you make the same answer as regards the facts stated in this article as you made respecting those stated in the other papers ?

A. I make the same answer.

Witness was requested to withdraw for a short time, pending the deliberation of the Committee ; upon his return, the President of the Committee represented to the witness that the intention of the Committee was not to incriminate the articles in question, but that, in discharge of their mission to inquire into the causes of the introduction of Cholera, the Committee have felt bound to ask him what are the sources of information and the proofs which he has asserted in these articles to be in his possession, and upon which he has written these articles. That if, as the Editor of a Newspaper, he considers himself justified in refusing to answer the questions put to him by the Committee, it is for him to consider whether, as a citizen, he is not bound to afford to the Committee all the information which he may possess on the subject.

A. I am sorry to again decline replying to the demand of the Committee. The Committee have it in their power to call every person who can give any information as to what took place at Gabriel Island. If, after examining all the witnesses, they find that what has been asserted in the *Commercial Gazette* is without foundation, I shall be ready to proclaim that I was led into error. I do not admit that my giving up the sources of the information, contained in the articles in question, will be of public service ; it would be decidedly a dangerous precedent for the press.

Q. Before you published these two articles in your Newspaper, did you take any step to ascertain, from official sources, whether the facts asserted by you were correct or not ?

14th July 1856. A. I decline to answer.

Q. After the publication of either of these articles, were any representations made to you as to their correctness?

A. Yes, I received a letter from the Private Secretary of the Governor, asking me to give up the authority on which I had advanced the facts respecting Gabriel and Flat Islands, as it did not correspond with the information which the Governor had received on the subject from official sources. In reply thereto, I stated that I felt obliged to decline giving the information sought for, but that nevertheless I had every reason to believe that the sources of information were to be relied on.

Q. Did the Chief Medical Officer represent to you that the facts stated by you were incorrect?

A. I was constantly in communication with that gentleman to get information, but I cannot recollect all that he may have told me. I do not recollect that he ever informed me that what had been advanced in the *Commercial Gazette* was incorrect.

Q. Were any such representations made to you by Mr. Stair Douglas, the Chief Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office?

A. Yes, and in consequence of that information, I wrote a small paragraph in the *Commercial Gazette* of the 20th of February. The information I then received did not authorize me to contradict any of my previous statements.

Q. Was it not made manifest to you that the allegation that there had been scarcity of water and provisions at Flat and Gabriel Islands, was incorrect?

A. I may have been vaguely told that my statements were incorrect, but not in that official manner as would have induced me to contradict my previous statements.

Q. In the article of 23d February, it is stated as follows:—"As regards Medical attendance, we would ask whether one Native Doctor was sufficient for 600 men?" Were you not aware, that when that article was published, an European Doctor, Dr. Finlay, had been in Medical charge of the Quarantine Station ever since the 14th January previous, in addition to the Native Doctor?

A. Most certainly not; I could not have been aware of that fact and have written what I did.

Q. Being, as you state, at that time in almost constant communication with the Chief Medical Officer, did it occur to you to enquire of him whether it was true that there was only one Native Doctor at the Quarantine Station?

A. I have gone too far in stating that at that time I was in constant communication with the Chief Medical Officer; I was so subsequently, after Cholera had broken out in the town, principally for the purpose of ascertaining the mortality in the Civil Hospital. In the early part of the Quarantine at Flat Island, I was only occasionally in communication with the Chief Medical Officer. I never asked, nor did I learn from him previous to the article alluded to was published, that there was an European Doctor at the Quarantine Station.

Q. Did you make any inquiries upon the subject from the Colonial Secretary's Office?

A. I had been very discourteously treated by Mr. Dowland, in Mr. Cummins' Office, when asking for information, and therefore I never since applied to that Office for information.

Q. Did you make any inquiries from the Harbour Master on the subject?

A. I made inquiries from the Harbour Master when I heard that Dr. Finni-

more was sent, and the Harbour Master gave me positive information; but having not heard any rumour of the departure of the first European Medical man before 14th July 1856. that time, I could not make any inquiry.

Q. Do you not consider that it would have been culpable negligence on the part of the Government to leave 600 immigrants at the Quarantine Station under the sole charge of one Native Doctor, Cholera raging down there at the time?

A. I do.

Q. Did you not consider that you were bound to verify so serious a charge against the Government before publishing it in your paper, particularly at a moment when the feeling of the public was so much excited against the Government?

A. I did not know how to obtain a confirmation of the fact, as the Government Officers were very cautious in giving information since the articles on Flat and Gabriel Islands, of the 12th and 23rd of February had appeared in the *Commercial Gazette*.

Q. Did you apply for information to any of the Government Offices?

A. I do not recollect having applied to any of the Government Departments for information.

Q. Did you, at that time, experience any difficulty in obtaining information from the Chief Medical Officer's Department or from the Harbour Department?

A. I had rarely occasion to apply to the Harbour Master, but whenever I did, I received satisfactory answers. My questions were chiefly confined to the movements of the Steamer. When I applied to the Chief Medical Officer, I did not always receive the information I asked for.

Q. Whether the facts stated in the two articles already referred to be true or not, are they not likely in your opinion to be very prejudicial to the interests of this Colony as regards Indian immigration?

A. I consider the facts very deplorable, but I don't think that the temporary want of attention at the Quarantine, admitting the facts to be true, ought to prejudice the interests of the Colony as regards Indian immigration, because all these evils may be remedied by a proper Quarantine Station, proper officers, and proper attention on the part of the Government.

Signed: F. CHANNELL.

The Chief Medical Officer being recalled, says:—

21st July 1856.

About the time the *Commercial Gazette* was publishing the accounts of the sufferings of the Immigrants at Gabriel Island, Mr. Channell one day came to my office to ask for information about it. I told him that all his statements about the bad treatment of the men at Gabriel Island were contrary to fact. He then said he believed he was about right as to the number of deaths; I told him that he was, but as to everything else he was wrong. I told him the number of Medical men on the Island, and that the Immigrants never were in want of food. Notwithstanding this, shortly afterwards, he again repeated his statements in his newspaper.

He asked me whether there had been any mistake in the rations, and I explained to him that it was merely a clerical mistake, in the addition of the quantities supplied, which had been immediately discovered and rectified, and which had not in any way affected the amount of rations actually issued to the immigrants.

On a second occasion I told Mr. Channell that he was wrong in his statements as to the number of Doctors on the Island; that there had never been less than

21st July 1856. three. He asked me why then Mr. Finnimore was sent, and I answered there was an increase of the amount of sickness—therefore it was necessary to increase the number of Doctors.

Signed. GEO. CLERHEW.

Stair Douglas,
Esq., Chief Clerk
in the Colonial
Secretary's Office.

Mr. STAIR DOUGLAS on oath, says :

My name is STAIR DOUGLAS, I am Chief Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office.

Witness is referred to the Articles of the 12th and 23rd of February last in the *Commercial Gazette*, and says :

As regards the article of the 12th of February which states "there is deprivation of food through errors of rations, want of covering through the inclemency of the weather, bad water, sometimes none, want of Medical Assistance" I have to state that on the morning of the 12th of February, or of the preceding day, a report had been received from Dr. FINLAY, Superintendent of Quarantine at Gabriel Island. This report is very confused as regards the number of sick and the number of deaths. This report contains no complaints as to any one of the evils mentioned by Mr. CHANNELL; it simply adverts to the fact that the sugar sent was of bad quality and nearly black. As far as we could gather, the number of deaths was not so great as that reported by the *Commercial Gazette*. On seeing this article in the newspaper, I thought it calculated to do so much harm to the Colony more especially as we had every reason to believe, from the silence of Dr. FINLAY that it was utterly without foundation that I applied to the Acting Colonial Secretary for leave to show Dr. FINLAY's report to the Editor of the *Commercial Gazette*. Mr. Dowland reluctantly consented, but desired me, at the same time, not to give him Dr. Finlay's figures as to sickness and mortality, and this for the reason that we could not really make them tally with each other, and they could not be considered as reliable information. I read the whole of Dr. Finlay's report to the Editor with the exception of the figures; as regards them I told him that they were not very intelligible but that, as far as we understood them, they depicted a better state of things than that which he had been publishing.

As regards the second article in the *Commercial Gazette* of 23rd of February, I did not hold any communication with Mr. Channell about that, because it appeared to me to be written with such an evident *malus animus* that it would be perfectly useless to place any facts whatsoever at the disposal of a person so manifestly prejudiced.

I wish to add, as regards this passage "we would ask whether one native Doctor was sufficient for 600 men" and a little further on in the same article "a second medical man has been lately sent," that the Editor must have been perfectly aware as far back as the 12th of February that an European Doctor, namely, Dr. Finlay, was at that time in charge, for it was on the 12th of February that I communicated to the Editor Dr. Finlay's report before alluded to.

Being asked whether Mr. Channell met with any difficulty in obtaining information from the Colonial Secretary's Department, that witness having stated that he was prevented from doing so by the rudeness used towards him by the Colonial Secretary; witness answers :

Neither Mr. Channell nor any other Editor has ever been refused any information relative to the question before the Committee; as regards the rudeness attributed to Mr. Dowland this is what happened: Mr. Channell came into the Assistant Colonial Secretary's Office and asked him in his capacity of Secretary to the Council to be allowed to copy some documents which had been read in Council; Mr. Dowland came into the Assistant Secretary's Room and seeing Mr. Channell there, said to him: "Good morning Mr. Channell, what brings you here" or words to that effect. I was then standing at the door of the

room. There was nothing in the least degree harsh or provoking in the way in which these words were said. Mr. Channell got very angry indeed and began speaking in a very loud voice, using a good deal of gesture, I don't remember all that he said, but I was very much astonished Mr. Dowland let him go on so long as he did, without checking him. Mr. Channell finished up with words to this effect uttered in a very loud tone: I beg to state, Sir, that for long since, I have remarked your excessive personal rudeness towards me, and I will tell you I wan't have it, it is a thing I have not been accustomed to, and I wan't stand it. Mr. Dowland said in a moderate tone: Really Mr. Channell, I don't see that what I said to you called for such an outbreak on your part; but now, Sir, I must request you not to come here to copy papers read in Council, if you want them, apply for them at the proper place, at the Council Office. Then raising his voice, he said: The Assistant Colonial Secretary and Gentlemen of this Office have plenty to occupy their time without being interrupted by you in this manner. Mr. Channell retired and that was all that passed.

As regards the question whether he had any difficulty in getting information, Mr. Channell must have known perfectly well that whatever may have been his personal quarrel with Mr. Dowland, both Mr. Cummins and myself, had never made the slightest difficulty about giving him any that we could consistent with our duty. I even volunteered to give him information which, as I stated before with reference to the article of the 12th of February, he declined to make use of, it was manifestly needless to volunteer information after that, nor did he ever apply to me for any more.

When I state that Mr. Dowland *reluctantly* consented to communicate Dr. Finlay's Report, I wish to guard myself from insinuating that Mr. Dowland was in the habit of making difficulties of the sort, but he stated that he considered it inexpedient and undignified for the Government to take notice of every misstatement that was made concerning it, and that it might be inferred that it was the duty of the Government to contradict all unfounded newspapers' reports. It was on my representing to him that the reports in this instance were likely, if uncontradicted, to be very prejudicial to the Colony abroad that he at once concurred and gave me leave to make use of the report as I suggested.

(Signed) STAIR DOUGLAS.

Mr. MASON on oath, says:

Mr. W. Mason.

My name is William Mason, carpenter, attached to the Surveyor General's Department.

I was employed on the construction of the Light House at Flat Island in January and February last.

I volunteered to go over to Gabriel Island on the 20th of February in company with 8 other carpenters to superintend the erection of huts there.

When I arrived on Gabriel Island, I found three wooden houses there, one of which was occupied as a store. Dr. Finlay and Serjeant Browne lived in the store, the second was occupied by the English Police men and the third by indian constables.

The coolies were under canvass or straw huts erected by themselves.

I erected 22 wooden huts 16x15 and a hospital 40x17 feet.

This addition of accommodation was quite sufficient for the indians.

Dr. Finlay was in medical charge of the indians and Dr. Finnimore arrived on the 26th of February, after I had been there six days.

Being asked whether Dr. Finlay discharged his duties properly in every res-

21st July 1856. *pect, witness says :* I do not think that Dr. Finlay acted as he ought. I have seen him rather awkward from drink, and that not once or twice, but often.

Dr. Finlay went across twice to Flat Island during the time I was on Gabriel Island.

I have seen the sick brought to Dr. Finlay in front of his door in the morning, and after medicine being given to them, they were sent back.

If Dr. Finlay had visited the sick in their huts I would have seen him as I was working near the huts, I have never seen Dr. Finlay visit the huts but once when Dr. Finimore landed on the Island.

In my opinion, the sick were not well taken care of before Dr. Finimore's arrival ; they were in my opinion perfectly taken care of after Dr. Finimore's arrival.

I did not leave until the 18th of May having been there from the 20th of February, i. e., all the time during the Quarantine.

The straw huts were made of "citronelle marron" of which there is plenty on the Island.

In my opinion, Flat and Gabriel Islands are healthy places.

At the time the coolies were upon Gabriel Island the weather was very bad and the people being under canvass which was a very hot covering by day and cold at night, this might have contributed to the great mortality as it is enough to make a healthy person unwell.

Communication between Flat and Gabriel Islands is easy ; I have myself gone across before the places were in Quarantine.

I remained altogether 18 months at Gabriel and Flat Islands ; the landing can be effected altho' sometimes difficult ; the beach is sandy in certain parts, and rocky in others ; there was but one accident during the time I was there, it happened lately ; a boat was upset but there was no loss of life ; I think it was occasioned by imprudence.

The Quarantine place is so pleasant that I would like to return.

There were as many as 80 persons at one time on Flat Island, and I never noticed any sickness among them before the Quarantine.

Signed : W. MASON.

9th August 1856. Mr. Stair DOUGLAS appears again and makes the following statement :

Stair Douglas,
Esquire.

I wish to make a correction in my evidence of the other day relative to what passed between Mr. Dowland and Mr. Channell. There were two occasions upon which Mr. Channell came into collision with Mr. Dowland, and I think perhaps I have confounded one with the other. On one occasion Mr. Channell came to Mr. Cummins' office accompanied by a young man represented to be a Reporter for one of the Journals, and asked for a ticket of admission to sittings of Council. Some conversation arose as to the form in which this ticket was to be drawn up ; Mr. Dowland happening to come into the room at this moment, Mr. Cummins asked him what was his opinion. Mr. Dowland, who was standing close to Mr. Cummins, answered him in a low voice : " Really that is a matter for your own consideration entirely " or words to that effect. Mr. Channell apparently not having heard what Mr. Dowland said, declared in a loud voice that this was no business of Mr. Dowland's ; and I think that it was in consequence of this observation that the angry conversation ensued which I described in my previous evidence.

Signed : STAIR DOUGLAS

Serjeant BROWNE on oath, says :

14th August 1856.

My name is Annesley Browne, I am Serjeant of Police.

A. Browne, Ser-
jeant of Police.

I went down to Gabriel Island on the 14th January and landed there on the 15th.

I went down in the same vessel with Dr. Finlay.

The indians of the *Futtay Mombarrack* were landed partly on the 13th and partly on the 14th ; those of the *Hydere* had not landed the vessel having not yet arrived there.

I had been there previously up to the 5th of January in charge of the provisions and of the Police during the Quarantine of the Immigrants per *Progress*.

In the second instance I received no particular instructions.

I found the indians under trees, around the stores and under tarpaulins erected against the trees.

On the day of my arrival I put up accommodation for them.

There was very little sickness among the indians on their first landing ; what sickness there was appeared to me to be dysentery, diarrhea and fever. I did not, at that time, see any cases of Cholera ; about six or seven days after the sickness increased.

The sick were placed apart in a hospital under tarpaulins.

Those for whom there was no room in the hospital remained in the Camp.

I did not see any sick lying outside the hospital without shelter, but if any did, it was their own fault ; they must have left the hospital during the absence of the sirdars. I heard a rumour to that effect but never had an opportunity of seeing it.

It could have happened that they were exposed for a whole night without shelter without my seeing them.

I made no enquiry into the matter.

I was laid up dangerously with a fever from the 24th January to the 17th of February and cannot say what passed during that time.

My duties were to superintend the Police, to issue provisions to the Police and indians and superintend the cleansing of the camp every morning.

When I was taken ill, Police constable Cahill replaced me in my duties.

Up to the 7th of February, I had 3 English guards and 2 indian peons under my charge, at that time a reinforcement of 6 English guards arrived.

It never occurred to my knowledge that the sick went without their food not being able to cook for themselves.

The only occasion that I know of on which their fire for cooking was put out by rain was about the 21st of January.

The sirdar of each band cooked for the men who were sick.

The indians were never short of provisions during the time I was on the island : on one occasion only, previous to my illness, they were short of water owing to an accident, the boat with water having upset in coming across from Flat Island.

This scarcity of water lasted about ten days, the day following the upsetting of the boat, the steamer brought down 59 casks of water from Port Louis, but this

14th August 1856. water turned out to be foul, the indians would not drink it. It was even difficult
 _____ to get the indians to cook their food with it.

The day following, the pirogue which had upset was recovered and a supply of water was procured from Flat Island.

During this scarcity of water, the indians went to the other side of the island and collected the rain water from the hollow of the rocks and drank it.

A sentry was placed at the landing place to prevent communication with Flat Island.

At one time however it was not possible to have a sentry there in consequence of two of the Police guards being ill.

I cannot say positively one way or the other whether there was communication with Flat Island or not, but I know that on one occasion about 18th or 19th of January, Dr. Finlay and I were walking on the sands about 11 o'clock at night when we saw a pirogue coming across from Flat Island.

Dr. Finlay thought they were persons fishing and hailed them with the intention of buying some fish. Upon being hailed the boat turned round to Flat Island and I then perceived it contained 6 convicts.

I am under the impression that these men were coming across to Gabriel Island.

This fact coupled with the report which I had previously heard made me believe that they had on a former occasion landed on Gabriel Island.

Subsequently to that occasion I do not know of any communication between the two Islands.

During my illness and previous to the arrival of the reinforcement, there were two English Policemen fit for duty; the peons had enough to do all day in looking after the landing and supply of water, and also looking after the cleaning of the camp.

Such a police force was not sufficient to prevent communications between the islands.

Under the existing circumstances previous to the arrival of Dr. Finnimore, I do not think the sick could be better looked after.

I accompanied Dr. Finlay on visits to the camp for the purpose of seeing whether there were any sick there.

(Signed) A. BROWNE.

18th August 1856. Dr. Labat on his oath, says :

Dr. P. Labat, Assistant Surgeon of the Civil Hospital. My name is PIERRE LABAT, Assistant Surgeon of the Civil Hospital.

In the month of February, on the 26th, at half past ten P. M., I was sent for by Mr. Assistant Harbour Master Spencer to visit a man who was dangerously ill on board the *Victoria* Steamer.

I went immediately on board, and I ascertained that the man who was shewn to me had the Cholera.

The man had had the symptoms of Cholera, viz. : vomiting, purging; when I saw him, he had cramps, was cold and clammy.

I was told that he had taken a dose of Castor oil and drank a quantity of cold water, but I am perfectly satisfied that he had the Cholera. 18th August 1856

This case appeared to me to be hopeless, nevertheless his brother came on shore with me and I gave him some medicines to administer.

Whilst I was on board, I was informed that this man had been, during the course of the day, employed in landing provisions at Gabriel Island and that the provisions had been landed to leeward of the island; I was also informed that this man had been ill for some days.

The next morning I sent a report of my visit on board to Dr Clerihew, Dr Montgomery, the Mayor and the Superintendent of Police, and in order to have the letter opened sooner I wrote in a corner of the envelope the word *Cholera*.

I did not prescribe any measures as to the ship, because 1o. communication had taken place, half of the crew having already gone on shore, the steamer being close in shore, and 2o. because I did not know whether I could, of my own authority, as a medical man or even as Assistant Surgeon, place a vessel in Quarantine at that time at night.

The next morning the Mayor ordered the portion of the crew that had landed to be reembarked.

Further more every person then present on board including Mr. Kerswill and Mr. Spencer insisted that it was not the Cholera because the man had been ill several days, and had taken on that day cold water, having taken castor oil and that these were the causes of his severe illness.

For my part after I had no doubt whatever as to the existence of Cholera in that man.

In my opinion the Cholera existing on board, the communication with the shore which had taken place previous to my arrival on board was sufficient to spread the disease.

At the same period there were rumours of several cases of Cholera in the windward part of the islands; these were only rumours which I did not investigate.

There were two cases of Cholera simple towards the end of January and four during the course of February in the Civil Hospital in Port Louis.

I mean by Cholera simple, the cholérine, the features of which were vomiting, purging and rice water evacuations, but without cramps, none of which cases proved fatal.

I did not report them to the Chief Medical Officer, nor did the Surgeon in charge of the Hospital make any report on these cases as they were not then considered of any importance.

In answer to my report of the case of Cholera which occurred on board the Steamer, I received from the Chief Medical Officer copy of a letter from the Colonial Secretary, dated the 28th of February, which I hand in, I beg to observe that in this answer I am reproached with having written the word *Cholera* on the corner of the envelope of my report, but this was done, not with any bad intention, but with the view of calling immediate attention to my communication which I considered very important, and it was only addressed to public authorities.

I also hand in copy of a letter dated 6th of March addressed to the Chief Medical Officer relative to the first case of Cholera which was sent to the Civil Hospital from the Municipality, and also copy of another letter dated the 9th of March respecting the first case from the Civil and Criminal Prisons.

(Signed) LABAT.

Assistant Surgeon.

3rd October 1856. Dr. Labat appears and with the permission of the Committee makes the following rectification of his previous evidence.

P. Labat.

I beg to mention that Mr. Kerswill was not on board the steamer when I visited the man, it was Mr. Henry Johnson, Chief Officer, who, together with Mr. Spencer and the other persons then present, insisted that the man had not the Cholera.

I also beg to be allowed to withdraw the copies of letters which I handed in at my examination.

The Committee, having requested Mr Labat to withdraw, decided that the evidence of Mr. Labat referring to this correspondence was in reply to questions put to him and the documents having been produced at their express request, the Committee feel that they cannot allow the withdrawal of these documents which form part of the inquiry, and further, that the witness, in producing these documents, only performed a duty which his oath compelled him to fulfil.

Mr. Labat having been recalled was informed of the decision of the Committee and then withdrew.

(Signed) LABAT.

DOCUMENTS PRODUCED BY WITNESSES.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

CAPTAIN D. WALES, ACTING HARBOUR MASTER.

Went alongside at 8 30 A. M.

REPORT OF ARRIVALS. PORT LOUIS, ISLE OF MAURITIUS, 8th JANUARY AT 7 30 A. M. 1856.

NAMES OF			No. of		DATE OF DEPARTURE.	LADING.	WHERE BOUND.	WHERE BELONGING.	No. of DAYS OUT
VESSEL.	MASTER.	OWNER.	MEN	TONS					
Ship "Futta Mombarrack"	J. L. Wadge.....	Abraham Cade.....	100	1070	9 th December 13 th do.	Rice & Sundries 5 parcels. 2 letters.	Port Louis..	Bombay....	26
PASSENGERS.			INTELLIGENCE.			MISCELLANEOUS.			
361 Immigrants, lost 21 besides.			Placed in Quarantine of observation.			<i>Harbour Master.</i>			

64 This Form is filled in pencil.

Boarded at 8 10 A. M., 17th January 1856, landed at 4 30 P. M.

REPORT OF ARRIVALS. PORT LOUIS, ISLE OF MAURITIUS, 8th JANUARY AT 7 30 A. M. 1856.

NAMES OF			No. of	DATE OF	LADING.	WHERE	WHERE	No. of
VESSEL.	MASTER.	OWNER.						
			MEN	TONS				
p "Futta Mombarrack"	J. L. Wadge.....	Abraham Cade....	105	1070	9th Decemb ^r 13th do.	Rice & sundries }	Port Louis..	Bombay.... 26
Received the Port Regulations, J. L. WADGE, Harbour Master.								
PASSENGERS.			INTELLIGENCE.			MISCELLANEOUS.		
Mrs. Wadge. 372 Immigrants. 1 Servant. Hursun Dosun								

Went alongside at 3 30 P. M., landed at 4 30 P. M.

REPORT OF ARRIVALS. PORT LOUIS, ISLE OF MAURITIUS, 5th JANUARY AT 3 30 P. M. 1856.

NAMES OF			No. of		FROM WHENCE.	DATE OF DEPARTURE.	LADING.	WHERE BOUND.	WHERE BELONGING.	No. of DAYS OUT
VESSEL.	MASTER.	OWNER.	MEN	TONS						
Ship "Hydery"	A. C. Watty.....	Abraham Cade....	72	675	{ Calcutta..... { Sand Heads....	20 th December 24 th do.	Rice & Sundries } 2 parcels. 1 letter.	Port Louis..	Bombay....	43
									Harbour Master.	
PASSENGERS.			INTELLIGENCE.			MISCELLANEOUS.				
272 Immigrants, lost 21 besides.			Placed in Quarantine of observation.			Casim Ameer.				

Boarded at 9 30 A. M., 24th January 1856.

REPORT OF ARRIVALS. PORT LOUIS, ISLE OF MAURITIUS, 5th JANUARY AT 2 30 P. M. 1856.

NAMES OF			No. of		DATE OF DEPARTURE.	LADING.	WHERE BOUND.	WHERE BELONGING.	No. of DAYS OUT
VESSEL.	MASTER.	OWNER.	MEN	TONS					
Ship "Hyderee"	C. Watta	Abraham Cade....	77	675	20th Decemb ^r 24th do.	Rice & sundries }	Port Louis..	Bombay....	41
<p>Received the Port Regulations, A. C. WATTEE, Agents: CASSIM AMEER.</p> <p>Harbour Master.</p>									
PASSENGERS.			INTELLIGENCE.			MISCELLANEOUS.			
Auberz Canaz, servant.									

Civil Medical Department,
1st February, 1856.

[Immediate.]

2

The HARBOUR MASTER, Port Louis.

Sir,

As a supply of provisions is to be embarked to-morrow for the immigrants in Quarantine at Gabriel Island, I have to state that the greatest caution must be exercised by the Master of the Steamer in landing those provisions, so that no communication may take place between people on the Island and those belonging to the Steamer.

The persons resident on the Island must be all kept at the opposite side of it, as distant as possible, while the landing of the provisions is going on, and no one belonging to the Steamer should be permitted to go beyond the place where the stores are landed, which should be as near as possible to the water's edge.

The boats ought not to remain a moment longer than necessary.

No person resident on the Island should be permitted to come within 100 yards of the boat.

This can easily be effected by means of the Police Constables who are to be landed on the Island.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) GEO. CLERIHEW,

C. M. O.

The Master of the Steamer is required to pay particular attention to the above instructions. 3

(Signed) D. WALES,
Acting Harbour Master.

Port Office, }
6th February 1856. }

True Copies.

D. WALES,
Acting Harbour Master.

MEMO :

The Steam Tug vessel *Victoria* will proceed to Flat Island this afternoon, with a quantity of wood, for the use of the Quarantine establishment.

The Master of the vessel is referred to the previous instructions, issued to him on the 6th instant, respecting the landing of provisions, &c. *He is particularly required to see that no communication whatever takes place between the crew of the vessel and the people on the Island.*

Port Office, 11th February 1856.

(Signed) DOUGLAS WALES,
Acting Harbour Master.

To the MASTER OF THE VICTORIA
Steam Tug Vessel.

The Master of the *Victoria* is referred to previous instructions, issued to him on

the 6th and 11th instant, and is again warned most carefully to avoid all communication with the people in Quarantine on Flat Island, whilst landing the stores.

Port Office, 19th February 1856.

(Signed) DOUGLAS WALES,
Acting Harbour Master.

True Copies.
(Signed) D. WALES,
Acting Harbour Master.

Extract of the Acting Harbour Master's letter, addressed to Mr. Kerswill, or Commanding Officer of the *Victoria*, dated 28th February 1856:

5. I again call your attention to the written instructions sent on board, with respect to the precautions to be observed in your communication with the Lazaret, to which I desire you will pay the strictest obedience, and give your orders to that effect to Mr. Johnstone and the men employed in landing the stores.

6. No one from the Island is, on any account, to be allowed to approach the working party till such time as the stores be landed, and the men in the boats on their way to the *Victoria*.

7. With all written communications you will use the same precaution as formerly.

(Signed) DOUGLAS WALES,
Acting Harbour Master.

A True Extract.
(Signed) D. WALES,
Acting Harbour Master.

The attention of the Master of the *Victoria* is again called to the written instructions sent on board on the 6th, 11th, and 19th February 1856, and to the 5th, 6th, and 7th paragraphs of the Acting Harbour Master's letter, of yesterday's date.

Port Office, 29th February, 1856.

By order of the Acting Harbour Master.
(Signed) F. A. LATOUCHE.

A True Copy.
D. WALES,
Acting Harbour Master.

MEMO No. 37.

To Mr. E McKAIN,
Officer in charge of the Contractor's boat:—

1. On arriving near Gabriel Island, the Officer in charge of the Contractor's boat will display the Quarantine flag, and warn off to a distance any persons he may see near the landing place. He will then land the stores on the shore, and receive any letters that may be coming from the Lazaret, disinfecting them before touching them, by wetting them abundantly with vinegar and water. For this purpose he will place a bucket with the vinegar and water in it—half vinegar, half water—at least 50 yards from the landing place, and will desire the person bringing the letters to sprinkle them well. After that person shall have retired, he will again sprinkle them plentifully himself before touching them.

2. All letters are to be delivered to the Acting Harbour Master, with the exception of those addressed to the Chief Medical Officer, which are to be forwarded immediately.

3. When the boat returns, she will anchor between the Forts, and allow no communication whatever to take place with the shore, or any boat, till the Health

Officer comes alongside ; and from the time of leaving Gabriel Island the Quarantine flag is to be kept flying till such time as the boat receives Pratique.

Port Office, 11th March 1856.

(Signed) D. WALES,
Acting Harbour Master.

A True Copy.

Acting Harbour Master.

Extract of a letter of instruction, addressed to the Boarding Officer, by the Acting Harbour Master, in accordance with the directions given by his Honor General Sutherland, on the report of a Committee appointed to enquire into the proper hours for the performance of the Health Officer's duty.

4. As the Honorable the Officer administering the Government, in his letter of the 16th instant, has been pleased to direct that all vessels in future arriving at the Bell Buoy *one* hour before sunset are to be admitted to Pratique that evening except Coolie ships, which must arrive *two* hours before sunset to obtain Pratique the same evening, the Boarding Officer will be guided by the above instructions in sending for the Health Officer.

Port Office, Port Louis,
21st day of September 1853.

(Signed) JAS. RUSSELL,
Acting Harbour Master.

A True Extract.
D. WALES,
Acting Harbour Master.

Port Office, 17th March 1856.

A No 52.

Dr. FINNIMORE,

Quarantine Station,
Gabriel Island.
Sir,

It is impossible for me, without being on the spot, to determine in what manner all communication between the people in the Lazaret and those employed in conveying stores to Gabriel Island can be best prevented ; however, as it is of the greatest importance that our people should not land, if it can be avoided, I shall feel obliged, should the thing be feasible, if you would order the following arrangement—There is a lighter that was sent down for the purpose of being employed in cutting through the coral reef to the Northward ; if you would order this to be anchored at a small distance from the land, the boat could go alongside and place the stores on board of her, and after the Contractor's boat had shoved off to some distance, the people from the Lazaret could haul the lighter ashore and discharge her. By this means I think all actual communication might be done away with.

I write to you official'y on this matter, not that I pretend to any control over you in any way, but, in the absence of a regular Quarantine Establishment, which will in a great measure be under the orders of the Port Department, I have no one to look to or confer with but you on these points, and the plan I have pointed out seems to me simple, and, as far as may be, efficacious.

If, therefore, on the approach of the Contractor's boat, you would give orders to do as recommended above, I shall feel obliged.

Also, if you would make use of your influence with Serjeant Browne, (or whoever it is who takes charge of the stores on arrival, and who never sends away re-

ceipts for them,) to sign such as are forwarded for that purpose, you will further oblige.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

DOUGLAS WALES,
Acting Harbour Master.

A True Copy.

D. WALES,
Acting Harbour Master.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY :

- 1 Extract from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the General Board of Health, at their meeting on the 7th January, 1856.

PRESENT.

The Honorable J. Dowland, Esqre., *Chairman*.

— L. Léchelle, Esqre.

Dr. Dauban.

Dr. Clerihew, P. M. Officer.

ABSENT.

The Honorable F. Bedingfeld, Esqre., from illness.

Read letter, dated 5th January, from the Health Officer, reporting the arrival, on that day, of the ship *Hydere*, from Calcutta, with 272 Coolies on board, and that he had placed her in temporary Quarantine on account of the health of the passengers being in an unsatisfactory state. The Board examined the Medical diary of the ship, from which they gathered that the *Hydere* left Calcutta on the 20th of November last; that two cases of Cholera occurred while the vessel was still in the "Hoogly," one of which proved fatal on the 22nd November, and the other recovered, but ultimately fell a victim to dysentery; that there were in all, during the voyage, 57 cases of illness and 20 deaths. Of these, one was from Cholera, one from dysentery, 3 from diarrhoea, 3 from fever, 2 from accidents, (drowned and scalded,) and 7 were infants; and lastly, that there are at present 50 on the sick list from fever, who have been taken ill since the 26th ultimo.

Resolved that the vessel, being previously fumigated, may be admitted to Pratique to-morrow, provided, after inspection by the proper Medical Officer, the state of health of the people on board is reported to be satisfactory.

True Extract.

(Signed)

J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

[Copy.]

- 2 Minutes of Proceedings of the General Board of Health, at their Meeting on the 9th January, 1856.

PRESENT.

The Honorable J. Dowland, Esqre., *Chairman*.

Dr. Dauban.

Dr. Clerihew, P. M. Officer.

ABSENT.

The Honorable F. Bedingfeld, from illness, and

— L. Léchelle, Esqre.

Read and confirmed Minutes of previous Meeting.

Read letter, dated 9th January, from the Health Officer, reporting that he went alongside the *Hydere* to give her Pratique, but, finding that four new cases of fever had broken out among the Coolies since yesterday, he hesitated doing so.

Also, another of the same date, stating that he had placed the *Futtay Mombarrack*, arrived from Calcutta last night, with 380 Coolies on board, in Quarantine, on account of the unhealthy state of the passengers.

The Medical Diary of the ship was examined, and it was found that there had been, during the voyage, 22 deaths, 9 of which were infants, and that there had been 13 cases of fever since the 30th ultimo.

Resolved that the *Hydere* and the *Futtay Mombarrack* be detained in Quarantine or observation until Saturday next, the 12th instant, when this Board will again meet to consider a further report of the state of health of the people on board these vessels, which the Health Officer will be required to make.

The Board then adjourned.

(Signed) J. DOWLAND,
Chairman.

True Copy.
(Signed) J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

[Copy.]

Minutes of Proceedings of the General Board of Health, at their Meeting on the 13th January 1856.

PRESENT.

The Honorable J. Dowland, Esqre., *Chairman*.
— F. Bedingfeld, Esqre.
— L. Léchelle, Esqre.
Dr. Clerihew, P. M. Officer.

ABSENT.

Dr. Dauban.

Read and confirmed Minutes of previous Meeting.

Read further Report, dated 12th instant, of the Health Officer, on the state of health of the Coolies on board the *Hydere* and *Futtay Mombarrack*, from which the following facts have been gathered.

On board the *Hydere*, 3 fresh cases of fever and 4 deaths have occurred since the 9th inst. Of the latter, 2 took place yesterday, one from fever and one from dysentery, one this morning, from fever; also, an infant from marasmus. The Native Doctor on board is also reported to be on the sick list.

The Captain expects more deaths, and has water on board only for to-morrow, and moreover has no one to look properly after the sick.

On board the *Futtay Mombarrack*, 6 new cases of illness have occurred since the 9th instant; 3 of fever, 2 of dysentery, and 1 of diarrhœa, and 2 deaths, 1 from dysentery and the other from diarrhœa, which latter proved fatal after an illness of only 12 hours.

The Captain of this vessel reports that a panic has taken hold of the Coolies, who begin to refuse to take their medicines, and also that he has water on board for only 4 or 5 days.

Read, also, a letter from the Captain of the *Futtay Mombarrack*, reporting that the state of health of the Coolies is not improving, and that unless they are landed shortly the sickness will increase.

Resolved that the *Hydere* and *Futtay Mombarrack*, being previously supplied with water, be directed to proceed to Gabriel Island to land their Coolies, there to undergo to Quarantine.

The Board then adjourned.

(Signed) J. DOWLAND,
Chairman.

A True Copy.
(Signed) J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

THE Commander of the is hereby informed that before his Ship can be admitted to Pratique, he must give the declaration required according to the form of the Schedule below.

By order of His Excellency the Governor.

C. J. BAYLEY,
Colonial Secretary.

—o—

WE the Undersigned, declare that the following is a correct statement of the names, diseases, dates of admission and deaths of all persons who have died on board of the Ship "Hydere" during her voyage from Calcutta to Mauritius.

	NAMES.	DISEASES.	DATE OF ADMISSION.	DATE OF DEATHS
*4 years.....	Sama Moi (girl)...	Diarrhœa	Nov. 21st.	Nov. 26th.
	Coonja	Do.	Do.	Do.
*In Hoogly, Cholera first. }	Aubeelokheea.....	Cholera	Do.	Nov. 22nd.
	Onoopee.....	Dysentery.....	„ 22nd.	Dec. 2nd.
	Boojawun	Diarrhœa	Dec. 1st....	Dec. 29th.
	Purboo	Do.	Nov. 26th.	Dec. 6th.
*Scald 3 years.	Ehreedarry (boy)...	Died from a scald..	Dec. 2nd..	Dec. 7th.
	Mungly (infant)...	Diarrhœa	Nov. 25th.	Nov. 27th.
*Shipped sick. }	Beepoodass (boy)...	General debility...	Nov. 21st.	„ 28th.
7 years	Satary (girl).....	Do.	„ 21st.	Dec. 13th.
3 years	Sookun	Fever.....	Dec. 3rd...	Dec. 15th.
	Chapnauth	Dysentery.....	„ 3rd...	„ 23rd.
*10 y*Shiped sick	Ramnauth (boy)...	Diarrhœa	„ 12th.	„ 18th.
*Infant	Barjwa (infant)....	Do.	Nov. 21st.	Jan. 3rd.
*68 years	Deena	Do.	Do.	Dec. 23rd.
*Sick a week....	Munjar	Fever.....	Dec. 21st.	Dec. 22nd.
	Ramroop.....	Do.	„ 15th.	„ 23rd.
*Drowned.....	Subrun	Drowned.....	„ 28th.	„ 28th.
*Shipped sick..	Omreetah	Dysentery.....	Nov. 21st.	Jan. 2nd.

The infant girl of Sohurchurry died on the 23rd December, 26 days old.

MEAJEAN,
In medical charge of the Coolies.

A. C. WATTER,
Commander of the Ship.

- * Two cases of Cholera in Hoogly (river), two deaths from accidents.
- * Seven deaths of children.
- * One death of old person (50 years old).
- * One death of man of 43 years, came on board sick.
- * Of remaining deaths, 7 in number.

*Fever..... 3
*Dysentery..... 1
*Diarrhœa 3

THE Commander of the *Futtay Mombarrack* is hereby informed that before his Ship can be admitted to Pratique, he must give the declaration required according to the form of the Schedule below.

By order of His Excellency the Governor.

C. J. BAYLEY,
Colonial Secretary.

—o—

WE the Undersigned, declare that the following is a correct statement of the names, diseases, dates of admission and deaths of all the persons who have died on board of the Ship during her voyage from
to Mauritius.

	NAMES.	DISEASES.	DATE OF ADMISSION.	DATE OF DEATHS.
	Doorga	Hemorrhage & Dys'y	Dec. 9th...	Dec. 21st.
	Choolau	Do. ..	Dec. 9th...	Jan. 6th.
	Fooricah	Diarrhea	Dec. 9th...	Dec. 22nd.
	Nerie	Consumption	Dec. 9th...	Dec. 18th.
	Dunnoo	Diarrhea	Dec. 9th...	Jan. 13th.
† 4 years.....	Soobur	Worms	Dec. 10th.	Dec. 15th.
† 4 years.....	Imrad	Do.	Dec. 10th.	Dec. 20th.
† 4 years.....	Buggaloo	Hemorrhage & Dys'y	Dec. 10th.	Dec. 16th.
† 1 year	Rumseca	Worms	Dec. 4th...	Dec. 16th.
† 2 years.....	Kubboo Terree....	Do.	Dec. 13th.	Dec. 18th.
	Ahmen	Dysentery & Fever.	Dec. 17th.	Jan. 5th.
† 2 years.....	Rutta be.....	Worms	Dec. 17th.	Dec. 25th.
	Runghee	Remittant Fever..	Dec. 21st..	Jan. 2nd.
† 48 years.....	Marodee.....	Diarrhea	Dec. 21st..	Jan. 2nd.
† Infant 8 months	Itwasa.....	Sympariatis	Dec. 22th.	Dec. 23rd.
	Cootey	Diarrhea	Dec. 23rd.	Jan. 5th.
	Beharry.....	Do.	Dec. 24th.	Dec. 30th.
	Naunuck.....	Do.	Jan. 1st..	Jan. 5th.
	Sechurrun.....	Appoplexy	Jan. 1st...	Jan. 1st.
† 11 years.....	Beresdooa.....	Sympariatis	Jan. 3rd...	Jan. 4th.
† 6 years	Roopalea.....	Hooping Cough....	Jan. 6th...	Jan. 6th.
	Sookony	Fever.....	Jan. 6th...	Jan. 8th.

Signature in indian language.

In medical charge of the Coolies.

Two Doctors.

J. L. WADGE,
Commander of the Ship.

† 72 cases.

N. B.—Of thirteen cases admitted during the first three days, nine died.
2. Of 22 deaths, nine were in children.
3. Of the remaining 13, 8 were Bowel Complaints, 2 Fever, 1 Apoplexy, 1 Hooping Cough, 1 Consumption.

† Written in pencil.

Gabriel Island,
January 17th, 1856.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that on my arrival here there were 396 Indians on the Island, out of which number there were two cases of Cholera and twenty-three of fever, also three of dysentery, the former of which terminated fatally. I had to operate, likewise, on a very difficult case of cymanite parotidia of both sides. I annex a list of what is required, in addition to the Medical stores here at present, for the use of the sick and convalescent, and have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. S. FINLAY,
M. R. C. Surgeon.

Men..... 252
Women..... 88
Children... 41
Infants.... 15

G. CLERIHEW, Esq., &c., &c.

Total.... 396

Since their two
have died.

Quinine Sulph.
Pulv. Opii
Castor Oil.
Sulph. Magnes.
Lime Juice.
Port Wine.
Brandy.
& Mustard.
Sago.
Alum. Sulph. Pulv.

P. S.—There is no cather of any kind in the chest, nor any mortar. I will, next opportunity, give you a list of such things as are stated in list, but not furnished.

F. S. F.

Civil Medical Department,
24th January, 1856.

4

Sir,

As it appears that cases of Cholera have appeared on Gabriel Island, I have urgently to request that you will use your utmost efforts to enforce the complete isolation of Gabriel Island, and to prevent any communication taking place with Flat Island or with any other place.

The greatest care must be taken to prevent any communication occurring by means of the supply of water or of the boat of Mr. Lecacheur, coming for letters.

I have to suggest, also, that you will look particularly to the cleanliness and ventilation of the huts and tents, as these are the most likely means to cause a speedy disappearance of the disease. I need not state that no filth of any description must be allowed to remain in the vicinity of the encampment.

You will be good enough to apply for any supplies of Medicine or Medical comforts that you may require.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

GEO. CLERIHEW,
C. M. O.

To F. S. FINLAY, Esqr.,
Gabriel Island.

Département Médical,
24 Janvier, 1856.

5

Monsieur,

Comme il y a des cas de maladie dangereuse à l'île Gabriel, il est nécessaire que la quarantaine y soit rigoureusement maintenue.

Vous prendrez garde :

- 1o. Que personne de votre bateau ne communique avec la terre.
- 2o. Que votre bateau quitte l'île aussitôt qu'on vous remettra les lettres.
- 3o. Que la personne qui viendra recevoir ou délivrer les lettres s'éloigne immédiatement de votre bateau.
- 4o. Que les lettres soient trempées dans du vinaigre avant de les recevoir.

Aussitôt que vous recevrez cette communication vous vous rendrez immédiatement à l'île Gabriel et me rapporterez un rapport du médecin en charge en cet endroit.

J'ai, &c.,

(Signé)

GEO. CLERIHEW,
Med. en Chef.

Mr. A. LECACHEUR,
Grand' Baie.

P. S.—Vous aurez la bonté de prendre charge des trois lettres ci jointes.

MEMO :

For Serjeant Browne, in charge of Police at Gabriel Island.

6

As cases of Cholera have appeared among the Immigrants in Quarantine at Gabriel Island, the greatest vigilance must be exercised by the Police to prevent any communication either with Flat Island or with any other place.

For this purpose sentries must be posted all night, and if the Police are not strong enough for this duty, Serjeant Browne will ask for more.

The supply of water from Flat Island must be so arranged that no communication shall take place, and no one resident on Gabriel Island must go near the persons employed in bringing water. Mr. Lecacheur will visit the Island every four or five days, to receive letters. These letters must be, as much as possible, prepared before the arrival of the boat, so that it may remain at the Island as short a time as possible. No one must be permitted to land from Mr. Lecacheur's boat, and only one person from the Island must approach the boat to deliver the letters, which must first be dipped in vinegar.

Care must be taken that no fishing boat is permitted to touch or approach the Island.

(Signed)

GEO. CLERIHEW.

Port Louis, January, 1856.

Civil Medical Department,
29th January 1856.

Sir,

7

I have to request that so long as the Indian Immigrants now in Quarantine at Gabriel Island shall continue there, every precaution may be adopted to prevent any communication with Flat Island or with the main land of Mauritius.

For this purpose these two Islands have been proclaimed in Quarantine, and his Excellency the Governor has ordered that if any person shall land at Gabriel Island, he will be detained there until the termination of the Quarantine.

You will please to communicate this to the Serjeant of Police at Gabriel Island, in order that it may be enforced.

I have, &c ,

(Signed)

GEO. CLERIHEW,
C. M. O.

F. S. FINLAY, Esq.,
Gabriel Island.

8

Civil Medical Department,
1st February, 1856.

[Immediate.]

The HARBOUR MASTER, Port Louis.

Sir,

As a supply of provisions is to be embarked to-morrow for the immigrants in Quarantine at Gabriel Island, I have to state that the greatest caution must be exercised by the Master of the Steamer in landing those provisions, so that no communication may take place between people on the Island and those belonging to the Steamer.

The persons resident on the Island must be all kept at the opposite side of it, as distant as possible, while the landing of the provisions is going on, and no one belonging to the Steamer should be permitted to go beyond the place where the stores are landed, which should be as near as possible to the water's edge.

The boats ought not to remain a moment longer than necessary.

No person resident on the Island should be permitted to come within 100 yards of the boat.

This can easily be effected by means of the Police Constables who are to be landed on the Island.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) GEO. CLERIHEW,

C. M. O.

9

Civil Medical Department,
4th February 1856.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that a supply of preserved meat and vegetables is sent herewith, for the use of yourself and the Police Constables.

2. The vegetables are for ordinary use; the preserved meat is intended chiefly for the sick, but may be issued twice a week to those who are not sick, in room of salt provisions.

3. The wine and spirits are for the sick only when required, and you will please to keep an extra diet roll, to account for the expenditure of these and of the preserved meat. You will be good enough to report to me when these articles are nearly expended.

4. I have again to urge upon you the greatest vigilance to prevent communication. The Governor has repeated his orders that every person who lands on the Island, (unless those sent on Government service,) is to be detained there until the end of the Quarantine.

5. The two yellow flags sent herewith are to be kept constantly flying on the two opposite sides of the Island.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

GEO. CLERIHEW,

C. M. O.

F. S. FINLAY, Esq.,
Gabriel Island.

Civil Medical Department,
February, 1856.

10

Sir,

Referring to your letter of the 26th instant, I have the honor to inform you that the Steamer *Victoria* will to-morrow take down to Gabriel Island a quantity of planks, to make flooring for the wooden huts now being erected, and also for such of the tents, if any, as it may be necessary still to employ; also a quantity of mats for bedding for the Immigrants, both sick and well.

You are at liberty to cut additional windows in the Hospital when required.

With regard to the salt beef, the Deputy Commissary General states that all the beef sent down was of excellent quality, and that the beef condemned at Gabriel Island must have become bad by being kept without pickle. Please to ascertain whether such was the case, and at what date the beef in question was sent down.

You will please to state in each report how many days consumption of vegetables remains of hand. These vegetables, consisting chiefly of potatoes and pumpkins, will keep very well if taken care of; they are for the daily use of the sick and the Constables.

Preserved meat is to be issued twice a week to the Constables, and as often as necessary to the sick. You can issue daily an allowance of rum to the Constables, half of it at their dinner hour and half in the evening. You will keep all the wine and spirits in your own possession, and issue once a day the quantity required for that day.

You will take care to apply for fresh supplies of provisions, medicines, medical comforts or other articles, some days before the quantity on hand is altogether expended.

The Police force has been placed under your orders in order to secure the due performance of the Quarantine service.

You will see that a watch is kept throughout the night, to prevent communication with Flat Island or Mauritius, and you will yourself superintend the landing of stores from Port Louis, or of letters from Grand Bay and see that no communication shall take place beyond sending one man to receive and deliver letters as rapidly as possible.

Finally, you will immediately apply for any thing whatsoever that you may consider necessary for the health of the immigrants.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

GEO. CLERIHEW,
C. M. O.

Staff Assistant Surgeon FINNIMORE,
Gabriel Island.

Civil Medical Department,
19th February 1856.

11

Sir,

I have this day received your letter of the 17th current, and am very sorry to find that Cholera continues to prevail, although the other two diseases have greatly abated.

As the number of dead is now so considerable, the greatest care must be taken to prevent any contamination of the atmosphere by the bodies of the dead. Dead bodies ought to be buried at as great a depth as possible, with lime over them, and a larger quantity of lime ought to be placed over the graves of those already buried, and covered by a layer of sand or earth. For this purpose, a quantity of lime is sent to you by the Steamer, now despatched, and if you want more, apply for some to the Contractor at Flat Island, taking care to dip all letters to him in vinegar,

and to send them by the water boat, without any actual communication with the boatman.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

GEO. CLERIHEW,
C. M. O.

F. S. FINLAY, Esq.,
Gabriel Island.

The Honorable the Acting Colonial Secretary.

[Immediate.]

1

No. 11.

Port Louis, 22d January, 1856.

The Honorable the COLONIAL SECRETARY,
&c., &c., &c.

Sir,

I have the honor to state that it appears from the Report of the Health Officer that the crew of the *Hydere* is now perfectly healthy.

As it is now nearly a week since the immigrants from this ship were landed at Gabriel Island, I have to recommend that *Pratique* be granted to her after fumigation.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

GEO. CLERIHEW,
C. M. O.

True Copy.

(Signed)

J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

2

A No. 126.

MEMORANDUM.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint a Committee composed of the following gentlemen, viz. :—

Dr. Clerihew, Principal Medical Officer.

— Rogers, Police Surgeon, and

Staff Assistant Surgeon Hardie, Civil Medical Store Keeper,

To investigate, as far as practicable, the nature and course of the diseases that have recently prevailed, with such fearful mortality, amongst the people in Quarantine at Gabriel Island, and to report their opinion as to any further measures that can be taken with a view to the mitigation of the sickness, as his Excellency desires that no practicable remedy should be left untried.

(Signed)

J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
21st February, 1856.

A True Copy.

(Signed)

J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 50.

Civil Medical Department,
8th April 1856.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward the proceedings of a Medical Committee, assembled on the 6th March last, by order of his Excellency the Governor.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) GEO. CLERIHEW,
C. M. O.

The Honorable the Acting Colonial Secretary.

Port Louis, 6th March 1856.

Proceedings of a Medical Committee, assembled this day by order of his Excellency the Governor.

President,

Geo. Clerihew, Esq., M. D., Chief Medical Officer.

Members,

Dr. Rogers, Police Surgeon.

— Hardies, Civil Medical Store keeper.

The Committee having assembled and proceeded to examine the various Reports received from Messrs. Finnimore and Finlay, at Gabriel Island, as also the information laid before them as to the quantities of provisions, medical comforts already sent to Gabriel Island for the use of the immigrants, and the materials for hutting them, find every necessary measure has already been adopted for the improvement of the health of the immigrants, and have no other recommendation to make than that a small daily allowance of rum be given to each of them.

(Signed) GEO. CLERIHEW, C. M. O.

(Signed) G. K. HARDIE, M. D.,

Civil Medical Store Keeper.

The transmission of this Report has been delayed by the illness and subsequent death of one of the Members of the Committee, the late Dr. Rogers.

Mr. Rogers, however, entirely agreed with the other Members as to the Report to be made.

Signed: GEO. CLERIHEW, M. D.,
C. M. O.

A True Copy.

Signed: J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 16.

Civil Medical Department,
25th January 1856.

Sir,

1. I have the honor to state, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that several cases of Cholera have occurred at Gabriel Island among the immigrants landed from the *Futlay Mombarrack* and the *Hyderece*.

2. I have to state that no case of Cholera occurred on board either of these ships during the passage from India, and the disease appeared after their arrival here, and might in like manner appear on board a ship that has received Pratique.

I have, &c.,

Signed : GEO. CLERIHEW,
C. M. O

True Copy.

Signed : J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Orders have already been issued for the most effective measures being taken to prevent communication with the Islands, and to provide all that may be considered requisite for the sick.

Signed : J. M. H.

26/1

True Copy.
Signed : J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

4

PROCLAMATION.

*In the name of Her Majesty VICTORIA of the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, &c., &c.. &c.*

J. M. HIGGINSON.—*By His Excellency JAMES MACAULAY HIGGINSON,
Esquire, Companion of the Most Honorable Order of
the Bath, Governor and Commander in Chief in and
over the Island of Mauritius and its Dependencies,
&c., &c., &c.*

WHEREAS it is enacted by the sixteenth and seventeenth clauses of Ordinance No. 38 of 1844, that there shall be made and published as often as circumstances may require, regulations for ensuring the rigid performance of Quarantine; and whereas the General Board of Health hath represented to me that the Islands commonly known under the designations of "Flat Island" and "Gabriel Island" are fit and proper places for the purposes of a Lazaret or Quarantine Station.

Now therefore, I do hereby declare and make known that the Islands known as "Flat Island" and "Gabriel Island" are separated and set apart as a Lazaret or Quarantine Station, and that the said Lazaret shall be deemed to extend over such part of the sea as shall be not more than thirty yards from low water mark on the coast of the said Island.

And I do hereby further order that the said Lazaret is in Quarantine on and from the date of these presents, and all persons are strictly enjoined and ordered to hold no communication whatsoever with the said Lazaret, under pain of the penalties and punishments prescribed by law in such cases.

Given at Government House, Reduit, under the seal of the Colony, this twenty-fourth day of January 1856.

By order of His Excellency the Governor.

J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

I entirely approve of this Proclamation being issued. The most stringent measures should be adopted to prevent the possibility of fishing boats communicating with the Islands. The Police on Gabriel Island have of course been instructed to prevent the departure of any persons who may land there. Similar precautions should be taken at Flat Island.

I presume, from Dr. Finlay's not applying for further Medical assistance or me-

dicines, they are not required, but if the sickness continues to increase another Medical man ought to be sent.

Signed: J. M. H.

24th 1856
3 P. M.

True Copy.

J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

My Dear CLERIHEW:

I have just received the accompanying minute from Réduit, and I think it right to immediately forward it for your perusal. 5

I also write by bearer to Dawkins, to request that he will lose no time in communicating with the fishermen on the coast.

I am,
Your's very truly,

Signed: J. DOWLAND.

Pailles,
6th P. M.

I waited in town till 5^h for Governor's minutes, but the courier left it here.

My Dear DOWLAND:

I am just returned from Poudre d'Or, and find your note and letter. The instructions contained in the latter will be acted on immediately.

Signed: CLINTON F B. DAWKINS.

10 P. M.
Thursday, 24th.

True Copies.
Signed: J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

To the SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE:

24th January 1856.

Sir,

I have received His Excellency the Governor's instructions, to request that you will *immediately* direct the Police Officers stationed in the Districts of Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart to make known to the fishermen residing on the coasts of those Districts, that Flat and Gabriel Islands have been placed in Quarantine, and that any infringement of the Quarantine regulations by them, will subject them to all the pains and penalties prescribed by law.

Signed: J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.
True Copy.
J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

A. No. 67.

Port Office, 8th April 1856.

6

To the Honorable The Acting COLONIAL SECRETARY,

Sir,

In answer to your letter of this day's date, calling upon me to report for the in-

formation of His Excellency the Governor, when the immigrants were landed from the *Hyderee* and *Futtay Mombarrack*, on Gabriel Island, and what communication has taken place with those Islands from that time to the end of last month, furnishing the dates of departure and return, the name of the Officer in command on each trip, and the names of any passengers, and whether these were left at Flat or Gabriel Island, or returned ; also, if possible, the nature of the stores taken on each occasion.

I have the honor to reply that the immigrants were landed as follows :—

From the *Futtay Mombarrack* January 14th ;

Do. *Hyderee* „ 17th and 18th ;

And the following is the other information required.

NAME OF VESSEL.	LEFT PORT LOUIS.	RETURNED.	COMMANDER.	DESCRIPTION OF STORES AND PASSENGERS.
Lord F. Somerset.....	14th January..... at 2.30 P.M.	15th January..... at 9.15 P.M.	Kerswill.....	Provisions for Gabriel and Flat Islands. Dr. Finlay, Serjeant Brown, 2 Constables and 1 Peon went down and remained.
Ditto.....	20th..... at 1 A.M.	Same day..... at 2.30 P.M.	Clement.....	49 casks of water.
Victoria.....	6th February..... at 7 P.M.	8th February..... at 5.30 P.M.	Clement.....	Provisions, principally rice and firewood, for Flat and Gabriel Islands. Passengers, 6 Police Constables, who remained.
Ditto.....	12th..... at 5.30 A.M.	Immediately.....	Clement.....	Chiefly planks and poteaux, some rice, firewood, and could not communicate. Passengers : Dr. Clerihew, 1 Serjeant, 3 Constables, and 1 Peon.
Ditto.....	14th..... at 5.30 A.M.	.....	Clement.....	Same cargo. Dr. Clerihew, 1 Serjeant, 3 Constables, and 1 Peon on board. Could not communicate.
Ditto.....	20th..... at 3.30 A.M.	21st February..... at 7.30 P.M.	Clement.....	Same cargo, and landed it. Passengers : Dr. Hardie, Mr. Bauckham, 4 Carpenters, 1 Serjeant, 3 Constables, and 1 Peon. Dr. Hardie and Mr. Bauckham returned in the vessel. The Carpenters, Serjeant, Constables, and Peon remained at Gabriel Island.
Ditto.....	23d..... at 3 A.M.	Same day..... at 7.30 P.M.	Clement.....	Rice and other stores, shovels and lime.
Ditto.....	26th..... at 3.30 A.M.	Same day..... at 8.50 P.M.	Kerswill.....	Planks, firewood, and sundry stores. Dr. Finnimore went, and remained at Gabriel Island.
Ditto.....	1st March..... at 10 A.M.	3rd March..... at 1.30 P.M.	Kerswill.....	Planks and provisions, and firewood ; a Serjeant and 12 Constables, who remained at Gabriel Island.
Ditto.....	5th..... at 4 A.M.	Same day..... at 4 P.M.	Kerswill.....	Provisions.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) DOUGLAS WAILES, Acting Harbour Master.
(Signed) J. DOWLAND, Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
19th January, 1856.

7 No. 48.

Sir,

I have received the instructions of His Excellency the Governor to inform you that he has been pleased to appoint Dr. Finlay Surgeon Superintendent of the Quarantine Station at Flat and Gabriel Islands, and also to act as Assistant in the Civil Hospital, Port Louis, whenever his services may not be required at either of those Islands.

I am also directed to request that you will intimate to Dr. Finlay that instructions are about to be sent to the Emigration Agents in India to require Coolie vessels to touch at Flat Island to receive Pratique previous to coming up to Port Louis, and that he will be required while there to visit such vessels as Health Officer.

The salary and allowances to which Dr. Finlay will be entitled, as Surgeon Superintendent, are those recommended in Finance Committee's Report, No. 376, of the 10th November 1854, and approved by the Legislative Council on the 6th December of the same year, namely, four hundred and fifty pounds sterling (£450) per annum and European rations. You will, however, inform Dr. Finlay that his appointment is quite provisional.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

A True Copy.

(Signed) J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

To the CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER.

8

Civil Medical Department,
21st January, 1856.

No. 10.

Sir,

I have the honor to report to you, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, that Mr. Finlay was sent to Gabriel Island on the 14th current, in charge of the immigrants now in Quarantine at that place.

I have therefore to request that Mr. Finlay's appointment may date from that day.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) GEO. CLERIHEW,
C. M. O.

The Honorable the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

True Copy.

(Signed) J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

MEMORANDUM.

9

A. No. 68.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint a Committee, consisting of the following gentlemen, viz.:

The Protector of Immigrants.
,, Chief Medical Officer, and
,, Harbour Master,

To draw up and frame Regulations for appointing Flat and Gabriel Islands Quarantine Stations, in lieu of Tonnelier Island, constituted as such by the Proclamation of September, 1852. Also, to frame all regulations required in consequence of the above changes.

His Excellency further directs that the Committee will insert a clause in the Regulations empowering His Excellency to compel, as far as may be, the Master of a vessel anchored in the roadstead of Port Louis, and reported to have contagious disease on board, to get under weigh and proceed to sea whenever it shall be deemed expedient to order him so to do.

And lastly, that the Committee will consolidate and include in the proposed Quarantine Regulations the conditions enacted by the Proclamation of the 4th and 7th of September, 1852.

(Signed) J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
24th January, 1856.

A True Copy.

(Signed) J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

**STATEMENT shewing the nature and amount of Clothing, Implements and Lime supplied to Gabriel and Flat Islands
from 11th January to the 31st March 1856**

DATE OF INDENT.	DATE OF ISSUES.	INDENT BY WHOM SIGNED.	Mats.	Cumlies.	Frying pan.	Indian Cloth.	Tea Kettle.	Lime (Bags of)	Oil can.	Picohes with handles.	Spades.	Sauce pans.	Tarpaulings.	Cooking Pots.
1856. February. 9th	1856. February. 10th	Chief Medical Officer.....	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
— 11th	— 11th	Assistant Colonial Secretary	..	500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
— 13th	— 13th	Chief Medical Officer.....	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..
— 14th	— 14th	Do. Do. ....	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..
— 15th	— 16th	Protector of Immigrants....	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..
— 22nd	— 22nd	Chief Medical Officer.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..
— 27th	— 27th	Assistant Colonial Secretary	500	..	..	..	..	24	..	..	..	..	..	..
— —	— —	Chief Medical Officer.....	..	..	..	4000	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..
— 28th	— 28th	Protector of Immigrants....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..
March.. 3rd	March.. 3rd	Assistant Colonial Secretary	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
— 10th	— 10th	Chief Medical Officer.....	..	50	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..
— 17th	— 17th	Do. Do. ....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..
		TOTAL ISSUED.....	500	550	1	4000	1	36	3	6	12	1	6	1

Commissariat, Civil Branch, Port-Louis 28th August 1856.

J. LAIDLEY,
Commissary General.

STATEMENT shewing the Nature and Amount of Provisions &c, Supplied to FLAT and GABRIEL ISLANDS from 11th January to the 31st March 1836.

Commissariat, Civil Enrob, Port-Louis 28th April 1856.

J. LAIDLEY,
Commissary General.

(Enclosure in Superintendent of Police's Letter, dated 22nd April, 1856.)

**LIST of POLICE SERJEANTS, CONSTABLES, and PEONS now
Employed at Flat and Gabriel Islands.**

11

RANK AND NAMES.		DATE OF THEIR BEING SENT.		AT WHICH ISLAND.	NATION.	RELIGION OR CASTE.
Serjeant....	Annesley Brown....	14	Jan. 1856	Gabriel.	Ireland...	Rom. Catholic.
P. Constable.	Henry Daly.....	..	Do.....	Do....	Do.....	Do.
Do.....	John Cahill.....	..	Do.....	Do....	Do.....	Do.
Do.....	James McCormick..	..	Do.....	Do....	Do.....	Do.
Peon.....	Bootoo.....	..	Do.....	Do....	Bengalee.	Hindoo.
P. Constable.	John McDonald....	6	February..	Do....	Scotland..	Presbyterian.
Do.....	George Charlton....	..	Do.....	Do....	Ireland...	Rom. Catholic.
Do.....	Samuel Shandershaw	..	Do.....	Do....	England..	Protestant.
Do.....	William Harvey....	..	Do.....	Do....	Ireland...	Rom. Catholic.
Do.....	John Lynan.....	..	Do.....	Do....	Do.....	Do.
Do.....	John Jauzan.....	..	Do.....	Do....	Prussia..	Protestant.
Do.....	Isidore Irma.....	11	Do.....	Flat...	Mauritius.	Rom. Catholic.
Do.....	Floreska.....	..	Do.....	Do....	Do.....	Do.
Serjeant....	Matthew Doran....	13	Do.....	Gabriel.	Ireland...	Do.
Peon.....	Boolakie.....	19	Do.....	Do....	Bengal...	Hindoo.
Acting Serjt.	Robert Taylor.....	28	Do.....	Do....	England..	Protestant.
P. Constable.	Edouard Constance..	..	Do.....	Do....	Mauritius.	Do.
Do.....	George Burby.....	..	Do.....	Do....	Madras...	Do.
Do.....	Julian Labonne....	..	Do.....	Do....	Mauritius.	Rom. Catholic.
Do.....	Victor Louis.....	..	Do.....	Do....	Do.....	Do.
Do.....	Chaudoo.....	..	Do.....	Do....	Bengal...	Musulman.
Do.....	Baccosse.....	..	Do.....	Do....	Do.....	Do.
Ind. Constable	Aranguie.....	..	Do.....	Flat...	Do.....	Hindoo.
Do.....	Battausing.....	..	Do.....	Do....	Do.....	Do.
Do.....	Alladine.....	..	Do.....	Do....	Do.....	Musulman.
Do.....	Boddhun.....	..	Do.....	Do....	Do.....	Hindoo.
Do.....	Damoo.....	..	Do.....	Do....	Do.....	Do.
Do.....	Yankersamy.....	..	Do.....	Do....	Madras..	Do.

RECAPITULATION.

DISTRIBUTION.	SERJEANTS.					POLICE CONSTABLES.										INDIAN CONSTABLES.					PEONS.			GRAND TOTAL		
	English.	Irish.	Protestants.	Rom. Catholics.	TOTAL.	English.	Irish.	Scotch.	Prussians.	Creoles.	INDIANS.		Protestants.	Presbyterians.	Rom. Catholics.	Mahometans.	TOTAL.	Bengal.	Madras.	Mahometans.	Hindoos.	TOTAL.	Bengalees.		Hindoos.	TOTAL.
											Bengal.	Madras.														
Gabriel.....	1	2	1	2	3	1	6	1	1	3	2	1	4	1	3	2	15	5	1	1	5	6	2	2	2	20
Flat.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	5	1	1	5	6	..	..	..	8
TOTAL.....	1	2	1	2	3	1	6	1	1	5	2	1	4	1	10	2	17	5	1	1	5	6	2	2	2	28

General Police Office,
23d April, 1856.
(Signed)

CLINTON F. B. DAWKINS,
Superintendent of Police.

A True Copy.
J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

REPORT

12 *Of a Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor, in a Letter dated March 15, 1856, for the purpose of inquiring into the truth of the following reports, viz. :*

1st. Whether an Indian named Aubhoy, who arrived here in the *Hyderree* on the 5th of January 1856, did or did not undergo the Quarantine to which that vessel was subjected ; and

2nd. Whether, on one of the trips of the Steamer *Victoria* to Gabriel Island, since that Island has been placed in Quarantine, the crew of a boat attached to that vessel passed the whole night on shore on Flat or Gabriel Island.

With regard to the first of these questions, the Committee find that Aubhoy was sent to Calcutta by his master to engage Indians, that, having obtained a band, he embarked with them on board the *Hyderree* not as an immigrant, but as a passenger, in proof of which he produced the Captain's receipt for his passage money ; that when the immigrants were landed at Gabriel Island he remained on board the vessel, and performed Quarantine ; that when the ship was admitted to Pratique he was still on board, which is fully proved by the usual form, filled up by the Boarding Officer, his name appearing there as the only passenger ; that there is, consequently, no doubt whatever that he remained on board the whole time the ship was in Quarantine, and was only released on the 24th January, when the *Hyderree* was allowed to enter the harbour.

Second question :—

The Committee find, by the evidence of Mr. Clement, (Master,) Mr. B. Harrison, (Engineer,) Mr. Johnson, (Mate,) of the *Victoria*, Mr. W. Harrison, Engineer of the dredging vessel, and Mr. Victor Autard, the contractor, for landing the stores, that on the 6th ultimo, when the *Victoria* went to Gabriel Island with stores, Mr. Creed, the Light House Keeper, Mr. Spencer, the second assistant, and Mr. Smith, in charge of the prisoners, came on board the *Victoria* from Flat Island, and remained about an hour ; (none of the persons here mentioned had the slightest idea that the Quarantine extended to Flat Island, with which they had always had free communication ; no yellow flag was hoisted then, only on Gabriel Island ;) that in the evening, after work was over, Mr. Victor Autard, by his own acknowledgement, went on shore with his men on Flat Island, and remained till about 10 P. M., when he went on board his boat, and remained afloat the rest of the night. From the same evidence, the Committee learn that Mr. Smith, the person in charge of the prisoners at Flat Island, sent back, in the contractor's boat, on the 7th ultimo, two men, bad characters, who were landed in Port Louis, and sent to the Central Police Station.

Mr. Autard, the Contractor, also states that, on the 10th ultimo, a workman who felt unwell left Flat Island, and landed in Grand Bay, in Lecacheur's boat, came to Port Louis, and received his wages from the Surveyor General's Department.

On the morning of the 10th ult., when the *Victoria* was again at Flat Island, a boat, belonging to Augustine Gateau, came from Pointe aux Piments, having on board Mrs. Snelling, the wife of the Assistant Light House Keeper at Flat Island. She came to rejoin her husband, knowing nothing of the Quarantine. She was landed at Flat Island and remained there. The boat assisted in landing the stores, and returned in the evening to the mainland.

There was no communication whatever on that day between the people on Flat Island and the *Victoria's* crew or the Contractor's men. The Quarantine flag was hoisted there as well as at Gabriel Island, and the usual precautions observed to prevent all communication. On neither voyage did any of the officers or crew of

the *Victoria* land on Flat Island, and the boats were invariably hoisted up or well moored astern when the working parties returned on board in the evening.

(Signed) E. CARDEW,
Collector of Customs.

(Signed) T. HUGON,
Protector of Immigrants.

(Signed) DOUGLAS WALES,
Acting Harbour Master.

Port Louis,
24th March, 1856.

True Copy.
(Signed) J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Memorandum on Annexed Report.

The Proclamation placing both Flat and Gabriel Islands in Quarantine was published in the *Government Gazette* of 26th January, and immediately copied, I believe, by all the Newspapers, some of which commented upon it.

On 24th January I wrote, both privately and officially, to the Superintendent of Police, instructing him to have the fishermen on the coast immediately apprized that both Islands had been put in Quarantine, and he promised that those instructions should be acted on immediately.

On 26th January, requisition was made by the Chief Medical Officer for two yellow flags for those Islands.

On 4th February, Mr. Spencer, of the Harbour Department, gave receipt for said flags.

It appears, by the annexed note of Captain Wales, that the flags were sent by the Chief Medical Officer to the Port Office, whence they were forwarded by Steamer to the Lazaret on the 6th February, but were not hoisted there "till the second voyage of the *Victoria* on the 10th.

(Signed) J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

28.3.56.

Dear Sir,

One or two days before the requisition was made for the Quarantine flags, Mr. Argent, the Store Clerk, took them himself to Mr. Cummins, by whom they were given to Dr. Clerihew, who forwarded them to this Department for transmission to Flat Island. They were sent down there on the 6th ult. in the *Victoria*, but whether any instructions were forwarded with them I cannot say; I sent none. It would appear that they were not hoisted at Flat Island till the 2nd voyage of the *Victoria*, on the 10th ult., but who sent those orders I cannot say. I conceived that the Chief Medical Officer had the sole authority over the Medical man in charge of the Lazaret, and confined myself to forwarding the stores sent down to me.

Your's very truly,

(Signed) D. WALES,

27.3.56.

True Copy.

(Signed) J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Gabriel Island,
30th April, 1856.

13

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that the yellow flags were hoisted on the 8th of February.

The following is a list of the Police on Gabriel Island :—

EUROPEANS.		CREOLES.	
Serjeant.....	Brown.	Constables.....	Lebon.
—	Doran.		Barber.
Acting do.....	Taylor.		Victor Louis.
Constables.....	McDonald.		Constance.
	Derham.		
	Charlton.		INDIANS.
	Johnson.		
	Lineham.	Constables.....	Baxus.
	Haney.		Chandhee.
	McKormick.	Peons.....	Boodhoo.
	Carle.		Boolackee.
	Daly.		

I have, &c ,

(Signed) F. A. FINNIMORE.

The Honorable J. DOWLAND, Esqre,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

A True Copy.
(Signed) J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

14

Colonial Secretary's Office,
12th January, 1856.

No. 28.

Sir,

The General Board of Health having resolved that the immigrants per *Hydere* and *Futtay Mombarrack* should proceed to Gabriel Island, to undergo a Quarantine there, I have the honor to request that you will indent upon the Deputy Commissary General for provisions for six weeks, including the supply already on the Island, for 652 immigrants, 1 European Brigadier, 3 European Constables, 2 Police Peons, and a Doctor, to be shipped on board the Steamer, which proceeds to Gabriel Island on Monday next.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

The Protector of Immigrants.

A True Copy.
(Signed) J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Extract from a note addressed by Mr. Cummins, (Assistant Colonial Secretary,) to Mr. Dowland, (Acting Colonial Secretary,) dated 4th February, 1856 :—

" I kept your servant until Dr. Clerihew should arrive at his office, from whom I learn that, although he expected to receive a report this morning through Mr. Lecacheur, none had arrived ; so it is presumed that he has not been able to communicate with Gabriel Island.

"It is very doubtful whether the Steamer can go even to Grand Bay this evening, but Capt. Wales is determined that she shall make the attempt as soon so the weather clears a little. Dr. C. informs me that he has given all necessary instructions as regards the mode of communication. The yellow flags have also been sent. I have also laid before him His Excellency's memo: as regards the detention of persons landing at Gabriel or Flat Islands, increase to Police force, the advisability of sending brandy and rum, &c., and you may depend upon my humble and best exertions to hasten these arrangements, and see that they are properly carried out. Laidley says the beef and biscuit last sent was of excellent quality, and he presumes that complained of must be some of the old stock left on the Island some time ago.

"I have not been able to see the Surveyor General, to inquire if it would be advisable to send materials to admit of the men hutting themselves, but will not lose sight of this."

True Extract.

(Signed) J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

I hope and am disposed to think, with Mr. D., that Dr. Finlay's report is exaggerated.

A larger force than three Policemen should be sent, especially as many of those there are reported sick. The strictest orders to be given to detain all persons landing on either Island.

The complaint of bad meat and biscuit must be carefully investigated. Tricks of this kind are sometimes played, as we know. Unless the C. M. O. considers brandy and rum to be essential for the sick, these articles might, I think, with advantage be omitted.

I should wish the Surveyor General to be consulted as to the possibility of sending such materials as might enable the Indians to make use of the grass on the spot to put up huts; which they are well accustomed to. They may be a long time in Quarantine, and these would afford better protection against the weather than tents.

(Signed) J. M. H.

2/2

True Copy.

(Signed) J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

4th March, 1856.

Dr. FINNIMORE,
Superintending the Quarantine Station,
Gabriel Island.
A. No. 161.

Sir,

I have read your letter of the 1st, and postscript thereto of the 2nd instant, addressed to the Chief Medical Officer, and am happy to find that the sickness amongst the Indians is on the decrease, which I have no doubt is greatly to be attributed to the exertions which you have made for improving the state of the encampment, segregating the sick from the whole, and otherwise organizing administrative measures for the alteration of the sufferings of the people under your charge. I have much pleasure in assuring you that the judgment and activity you have displayed since your arrival amongst those unfortunate people has greatly lightened the anxiety felt for their welfare by those upon whom the responsibility of their proper treatment mainly falls.

I learn with regret that the Medical comforts which should have fallen into your hands miscarried, and that you are consequently at present without any. An am-

ple supply is sent by the present opportunity. But I request you will inform the Serjeant of Police or other person who received these articles, or who ought to have done so, that he has incurred a very heavy responsibility by suffering them to be misapplied, and that a strict investigation will hereafter be made into the causes of their disappearance. I must also beg you to make further enquiry as to these articles, with a view to ascertaining who is really responsible for their misappropriation, as Dr. Clerihew's instructions as to their destination appear to have been distinct and clear.

As regards the articles which you have applied for, you will receive herewith a list of the supplies sent. Salt fish would have been furnished before had there been any reason to suppose it was needed. You are not, perhaps, aware that Calcutta Coolies received dhol in lieu of salt fish, and it does not fall within the regular scale of their rations, whereas to Madras Indians it is invariably served out. I mention this, not at all as questioning the propriety of the requisition for salt fish which you have made, which indeed appears to be evident, but merely as explaining what might otherwise appear a neglect. While on this subject, I may request that you will for the future furnish a summary of your wants at the conclusion of each report.

An enquiry will be instituted into the circumstances connected with the supply of bad beef, sugar, and potatoes complained of by you.

It has been impossible to procure at once a net as requested, but I have taken measures for the supply of one as early as possible. I hope it may be found useful, but, from all I learn, there appears to be doubts as to its being available on the reef between the Islands.

The Steamer would have left a day earlier than she did on her last trip, but it was not found practicable to get all her stores ready in time. For the future it is hoped that communication will be maintained with the Island by boat at least twice a week.

Amongst other things, you will receive by this Steamer some goats, for the supply of fresh meat to the sick and convalescents. The goats are purposely sent, being more relished by Indians than those usually killed or butcher's meat. Endeavours are also being made to send down some milch goats. If there be not sufficient pasturage on Gabriel Island, you will of course have them transferred to Flat Island.

I hope you understand that the Police are entirely under your orders, and that you may suspend any one who deserves it, the Governor having entire confidence in your zeal and judgment.

I request that you will inform the Native Doctor, Mohammed, that his good services are duly appreciated, and will be rewarded by Government.

You will continue to report as heretofore to the Chief Medical Officer, and to receive your orders and instructions through him. Be so good as to state in your next communication the exact number of males and females remaining alive at the latest date.

As regards Mr. Creed's request for an inquest on the body of his late wife, I beg you will inform him, (should you have an opportunity of so doing,) that there does not appear to be any possibility of acceding to his request, regard being had to the fact that Flat Island is, and may be for an indefinite time, in Quarantine, and to the time that has already elapsed since her death. Moreover, there appears no doubt, from your report, that the poor woman died of Cholera, and I do not see

what further fact could be established either by an inquest or a post mortem examination.

I have only to remark, in conclusion, that, having entire confidence that you will not apply for articles which you do not consider necessary for the comfort and well doing of the people under your charge, the Governor will cause all diligence to be used in furnishing whatever you may indent for with the utmost promptness and despatch.

Since writing the above, Mr. Bauckham has explained to me where and how you propose using the net, in a perfectly satisfactory manner; but, from the conversation I had with him, am not clear as to the exact position of your camp, whether on that part of the Island adjoining the reef connecting it with Flat Island, or at the other side.

Mr. Bauckham also suggests that, in order to prevent the chafing of the rope connecting the Islands, it should be moored to the bottom by stones, attached to it by lines dependent from it, of a length corresponding to the extreme depth of high water, and at the same time floated off the reefs by wooden buoys, at short distances from each other.

Perhaps, with the co-operation of Mr. Smith, you may be able to carry this into effect.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

P. S.—The Acting Harbour Master has represented that he has been unable to procure receipts from the Serjeant of Police for the articles landed on Gabriel Island. It is very necessary that this irregularity should cease, and I beg you will admonish the proper person to give as full and satisfactory receipts as is possible, under the circumstances. I am aware that it is impossible to verify the exact quantities, but it may be possible to furnish some such modified receipt as that appended to the accompanying note of supplies sent by this occasion, which is to be filled up and given to the Mate of the Steamer without delay.

Memorandum of supplies sent down to Dr. Finnimore at Gabriel Island, by the *Victoria*, on 4th March, 1856 :—

Two thousand pounds of salt fish.
Six hundred pounds of salt pork.
Four thousand pounds of pumpkins.
Four thousand pounds of yams or sweet potatoes.
Thirty pounds of tea.
Thirty pounds of coffee.
Two hundred pounds of sugar.
One hundred pounds of Marine soap.
Six dozen of port wine.
Six dozen of rum.
One bag of Madagascar rice.
One hundred and sixty pounds of preserved beef.
Forty pounds of concentrated gravy soup.
Two hundred pounds of cabin biscuits.
Six pioches or hoes.
Half a pound of Brède seed.
Half a pound of Pomme d'Amour seed.

A True Copy.
(Signed) J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Civil Medical Department,
25th January, 1856.

16 No. 15.

Sir,

1. I have the honor to state, for the consideration of His Excellency, that, although it is at present desirable that as little communication as possible should take place between Gabriel Island and the mainland, I nevertheless consider it necessary to have a report from the Island every four or five days, both for the purpose of ascertaining the progress of the disease, and also in order that those in charge of the immigrants may have an opportunity of applying for any thing that they may want, particularly water.

As there are now more than 700 persons on the two Islands, the supply of water may fail at any time during this dry season, and cannot be considered sure until the annual rains have fairly set in.

2. It would be desirable at this time to sink some more wells at Flat Island, in search for water; and there are men enough there at present.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GEO. CLERIHEW,
C. M. O.

My Dear COLONEL :

Is it not desirable to send down orders to sink other wells at Flat Island?

Your's very truly,
(Signed) J. DOWLAND.

26/1

My dear DOWLAND :

I have just put a pencil memo : on Dr. Clerihew's letter, as I see the Governor directs it to be referred to me. It was quite a mistake about water failing. They managed to lose some casks, and applied for more.

Your's truly,
(Signed) E. C. FROME.

January 26, 1856.

P. S.—I have sent directions for sinking another well.

GOVERNOR'S MEMO :

Such communication cannot be dispensed with, but of course exercising the utmost care and precaution to prevent the spread of the disease to the mainland.

The suggestions as to sinking wells to be referred to Surveyor General.

(Signed) J. M. HIGGINSON.

26/1

I have questioned Mr. Bauckham, and also the Overseer Smith, now in charge of the prisoners there, who was in Port Louis a day or two ago as to the supply of water, and from their accounts I do not apprehend any deficiency. The late demand was for *casks*, several having been lost by the upsetting of the pirogue whilst conveying water over, and the P. Medical Officer understood that *water* was failing, and took measures to send some off. We have before had to supply nearly 1,000 men from this well, and there was never any scarcity.

At the same time, I cannot answer for the effect of a much longer continuance

of this unusually dry weather. I will send over directions to sink another well, though if the present one should dry up I much doubt on any supply from a new one.

(Signed) E. C. FROME.

January 26, 1856.

True Copies.

(Signed) J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Civil Medical Department,
25th February, 1856.

17

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that I have engaged Staff Assistant Surgeon Finnimore to proceed to Gabriel Island early to-morrow morning, to give additional Medical aid to the immigrants now in Quarantine there.

Mr. Finnimore has been engaged at the rate of four pounds sterling per day, to date from to-morrow, and will embark this evening.

I have, &c ,

(Signed) GEO. CLERIHEW,
C. M. O.

The Hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary.

True Copy.

(Signed) J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Civil Medical Department,
29th February, 1856.

18

No. 30.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward to you, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, Dr. Hardie's report on the enquiries made by him at Gabriel Island by order of His Excellency.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) GEO. CLERIHEW,
C. M. O.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Port Louis, February 22d 1856.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that I proceeded to Flat Island and Gabriel Island at 3 A. M. of the 20th inst. We arrived off those Islands about 7 A. M. The first boat took the additional Guards and the letters. The former were instructed to see that the Coolies were sent over to the other side of the Island before any further communication took place.

I went off in the second boat with Mr. Johnson, Mate of the *Victoria*, and the Contractor. I may mention that the former kept strict watch near the landing place for the whole of the two days, in an open boat, exposed to the scorching sun. During both days a party of the Indians were employed, when the boats were away, in bringing up to high water mark the timber, &c., &c., deposited on the beach.

On approaching Gabriel Island I found that the camp was placed near the south-west of the Island, and nearly to windward of the spot where all the things were landed. The smell of smoke from the camp was quite perceptible, and even the smell of a roast fowl was easily made out.

On approaching the shore I hailed for the Medical man, Mr. Finlay, from whom I got the following information, which I shall put down very much in his own words, as taken on the spot in answer to questions from me.

The mortality up to the present is about 150, (was actually 134.)

Could not state the exact number of sick this morning, or give an approximation. From the 4th to the 17th instant, 33 had died, chiefly of Cholera. Of all the Cholera cases up to the present time only two had recovered.

The number of sick is decreasing, but Cholera is decidedly on the increase. Had had 10 deaths from it yesterday, (19th); all had been attacked during the day. Two, taken ill this morning, are already dead, (8½ A. M.) There are three more fresh sick from dysentery.

In the Cholera cases the symptoms are tenesmus, cramps, vomiting, purging of rice water, cold extremities. Saw no case of suppression of urine.

Most of the cases are fatal in one hour. The *average* duration of the cases is one hour.

Dysentery.—From 4th to 17th, 15 died and 5 recovered.

Diarrhœa.—No new case since the 4th; 18 old cases recovered. He thinks vomiting the first symptom of the Cholera cases. Has not noticed the existence of any premonitory diarrhœa. I directed his attention to this point, that probably diarrhœa existed extensively at the present moment unsuspected. I recommended a daily dose of opium to the Indians as an astringent. He said that they did all they could to conceal their complaints, and that he had to use stratagem to detect the existence of disease.

Fever.—From 4th to 17th, had had 2 new cases and 29 recoveries.

Miscellaneous cases amounted to 12, all of whom had recovered; 7 had died.

Water.—Had been generally deficient in water till the rains came on. Is inclined to attribute the amount of disease very greatly to the scarcity of water.

Rations.—The beef so tough as to be uneatable. In want of sugar; that sent was very bad; gave the Guards diarrhœa. In other respects the rations have been good, abundant, and issued regularly.

Camp.—The tents and huts perhaps too huddled together, but it has been impossible hitherto to change the arrangements, from the state of the weather. The Indians complain of cold.

Native Doctors.—One from the *Hydere* came over from Flat Island, and died of dysentery two days after. There are two others, one of whom, (Mr. Hommed, he thinks,) gives him great assistance; the other "not worth a farthing, chiefly ill."

Graves.—Are to leeward of the camp though not very far from it. The soil is light and sandy. Each man is buried in a separate grave from 5½ to 6 feet deep. Has no lime to put over the bodies. Has only two broken spades, now quite worn out, not longer in the handles than 4 inches.

Police of camp.—Great and constant attention is paid to the cleanliness of the camp. Has kept a register of all the cases, stating the disease, name, date, sex, remarks, discharged, dead, date of admission.

Has only about an ounce of laudanum left, but has not been as yet in want of medicines. The survivors seem callous and indifferent.

After consulting his register gave as the exact number of deaths 143 including the 2 this morning.

The health of the Europeans tolerably good. Serjeant Browne has been very ill with fever for 19 days, not typhoid, a sort of mixed fever, inflammatory, gastric and head. Had had a touch of it himself; also had had bad attack of diarrhoea.

Had made a post mortem examination the other day; found the left lobe to be of the liver softened and discoloured and great effusion of serum into peritoneal cavity, (the case one of cholera). Had no suggestion to make except that all the guards ought to have a glass of rum or brandy every day.

We next went across to Flat Island where the contractor hailed Mr. Mason and directed a quantity of lime and some shovels to be sent over to Gabriel Island.

While off Gabriel Island I questioned Serjeant Browne as to the scarcity of water. He stated that for two days during the rains they got no water from Flat Island. The men helped themselves from the rocks. There was a decided scarcity of water during these two days but no absolute want. He stated that he was that day rationing 540 indians. Think that there were about 650 when they first arrived, but neither he nor the doctor can give a decided answer on this head.

At 7 P. M., I returned to Gabriel Island with the last boat when I received a letter from M. Finlay, correcting the figures of the mortality which with 5 deaths to day amounts to 137. The last case proved fatal in half an hour. I questioned Mr. Finlay in reference to the state of health and amount of exposure during the rains. He stated that the people had been wonderfully well sheltered and that no greater sickness was observed than usual. Serjeant Browne sent a letter correcting his statement as to rations and giving the census of the indians on that day which amounted to 568 including infants.

I send these documents along with this report.

It seems most desirable that another pirogue should be sent to bring water from Flat Island, as the present one is not sufficiently large, and is out of repair.

I may state that we were detained another day, in consequence of having only two boats to unship the timber, stores, &c.; with four we could have left for Port Louis at 4 P. M. on the 20th.

I went off to Gabriel Island by the last boat, on the 21st, about 4 P. M. I found that Mr. Finlay was suffering from diarrhoea, and too ill to come down to speak to me. Serjeant Brown did not know whether he had been able to see the sick that day. There had been 4 deaths from Cholera up to that hour.

The Creole carpenter mentioned in Dr. Finlay's letter as being seriously ill was much better. Dr. Finlay sent word that there was a great want of port wine.

We left the neighbourhood of these Islands about $\frac{1}{4}$ past 5 P. M., and arrived in Port Louis at $\frac{1}{4}$ to 8 P. M.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) GORDON K. HARDIE,
M. D.

The Chief Medical Officer, Port Louis.

True Copy.

(Signed) J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
6th March, 1856.

19

Sir,

I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 29th ult., transmitting a report from Dr. Hardie, detailing the result

of the inquiries made by him at Gabriel Island, and to request that you will convey to Dr. Hardie His Excellency's best thanks for the satisfactory manner in which he has performed this special service.

His Excellency is aware of the difficult and painful position in which Dr. Finlay has been placed and would willingly avoid imputing blame to him, but his negligence in reporting the scarcity of water, previous to the setting in of the rainy weather, seems quite inexcusable. The cause of this scarcity is not stated, and His Excellency desires that you will institute further inquiry into the matter.

It is to be hoped that the appointment of Dr. Finimore will lead to more attention being paid to those sanitary precautions so indispensable to the mitigation of disease, and which Dr. Finlay does not appear to have sufficiently kept in view.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

The Chief Medical Officer,
&c., &c., &c.

A True Copy.
(Signed) J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

MEMORANDUM.

I was asked, at the meeting of the Committee on the 19th instant, when doubts in my mind first arose as to the Proclamation of 26th January having the force of law, and I did not make answer; as, before I could do so, a discussion ensued which suggested another question. I accordingly wish to lay before the Committee the following statement:—

The Proclamation of 26th January 1856, was prepared in my office. I did not examine the Preamble of it further than to ascertain that it was in the usual form, and it may be seen, in comparing it with all the previous Proclamations which cite Article 17 of Ordinance No. 38 of 1844, that it is so. It commences, "Whereas it is enacted by the 16th and 17th clauses of Ordinance No. 38 of 1844, that there shall be made and published, as often as circumstances shall require, regulations for ensuring the rigid performance of Quarantine," &c. The Proclamations of 5th August and 7th September 1852, contain the very same words.

On the 26th March the Acting Procureur General was called upon to prepare a Proclamation, embodying, as far as he might deem expedient, the Regulations for the Lazaret submitted by the Committee appointed to frame such Regulations; and a few days afterwards, Mr. Marsh, the Crown Solicitor, showed me a draft of the Proclamation required. Finding that the last clause of this draft referred to penalties which I thought would be better referred to in the Preamble, as in the Proclamation of 23d November 1855, I read the clause carefully, and supposing that article 42 of the Ordinance was that under which the Regulations should be published, as were the Regulations of 23d November, which I myself had framed, was struck with the severity of the penalties mentioned, and with Article 17 of the Ordinance being cited. On turning to this article I found that it provided for Regulations being made, not "for ensuring the rigid performance of Quarantine," as stated in Proclamations of August and September 1852, and of 26th January 1856, but for "*establishing and ensuring the execution of the duties of the Quarantine Establishment*," and then, for the first time, it occurred to me that the Proclamation of 26th January might not have the force of law, and that some of the new Regulations proposed could not have, by any Proclamation, such force given to them. This idea I communicated to the Acting Procureur General before he approved of the draft of the Proclamation of 25th April, embodying these Regu-

lations, which draft, before being published, was also referred to the Chief Medical Officer for his opinion, and he stated that he had "no change to suggest in any part of it."

J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Mauritius, 27th May 1856.

MEMO:

On or about the 14th of January 1856, when the workmen employed upon the wooden houses removed from Camp Lauzun to Gabriel Island were obliged to quit it on account of the landing of immigrants, to be placed in Quarantine, the accommodation consisted of:—

21

One house, 27X17 feet, ready for occupation as a provision store, and quarter for a Native Doctor, and two similar houses framed and boarded, but the roofs only covered with tarpaulins. These two were, however, habitable, and had the men been allowed to work 3 or 4 days longer would have been in the same state as the first.

As regards the tents and tarpaulins sent for the use of the immigrants, I had nothing to do with them, and do not know what amount of temporary accommodation they were supposed to supply.

On 20th February one English carpenter, (Mason,) as foreman, and 8 Creoles who had volunteered to go to Gabriel Island and remain there whilst the Quarantine lasted, for the purpose of putting up temporary wooden huts, were landed, and in the course of a few days had completed—

1 Hospital, about 40X16 feet, and
16 huts, each 16 feet square,

Giving ample accommodation for all the immigrants. They also completed the two unfinished houses as far as the materials at hand would allow.

These three houses have since been covered with bardeaux.

(Signed) E. C. FROME.

May 23, 1856.

The total accommodation on both Islands, when I last visited Flat Island, (May 17th,) was as follows:—

GABRIEL ISLAND as already stated:

3 wooden houses, 27X17 feet each.
1 Hospital.....40X16 „
16 huts.....16 feet square.

FLAT ISLAND.

The remains of all Mr. Giquel's buildings and huts, put up by the prisoners and workmen employed on the Light House; also

2 wooden houses, 27X17 feet each,	} Completed.
1 large straw hut.....	
4 smaller ditto.....	
16 do. framed and ready for thatching.	

Affording accommodation for about 1,100 immigrants, independent of temporary Doctor's quarters, provision store, &c.

(Signed) E. C. FROME.

RETURN of Immigrants landed in Quarantine at Flat and Gabriel Islands in 1850, 1854, and 1855.

SHIP'S NAME.	Presi- dency.	Number of Immi- grants originally embarked.				Date of arrival at Bell Buoy.	Deaths on the pas- sage from India.				Date of landing at Flat Island.	From what Disease.	Deaths during the Quarantine at Flat and Ga- briel Islands.				Period of time re- maining on the Islands.	Number released from Flat and Gabriel Islands.				Date of landing at Port Louis.	REMARKS.	
		M.	W.	B.	G.		M.	W.	B.	G.			M.	W.	B.	G.		M.	W.	B.	G.			
1850.																								
Carnatic.....	Madras.	271	29	3	1	Sept. 6	7	2	..	Sept. 13	Cholera.	1	..	..	41 days.	263	27	3	1	Oct. 25	A very satisfactory lot of Immigrants, much improved by their stay at Flat Island.	
Lord Elphinstone.	Do.	197	32	2	2	.. 18	13	1	..	.. 22	Do. & Dysent'y	..	..	..	34 "	184	31	2	2	.. 26	Ditto. Ditto.
1854.																								
Sultany	Calcutta.	292	53	23	7	April 2	24	5	6	April 9	Do. do. & Fever.	..	1	2	21 "	268	47	15	5	May 1	Ditto. Ditto.			
Futtay Allum....	Do.	233	39	13	5	May 8	34	2	..	May 13	Cholera & Typhur & Fever.	20	3	5	71 "	189	34	14	5	July 24	Ditto. Ditto.			
1855.																								
Mary Ann.....	Do.	189	68	17	15	Mar. 15	18	2	2	Mar. 27	Cholera & Dys- sentry.	..	..	..	20 "	171	66	15	13	April 17	Ditto. Ditto.
British Merchant.	Do.	192	47	19	13	June 10	11	1	1	June 19	Cholera & Fever.	6	2	..	1 50 "	175	20	44	12	July 30	Ditto. Ditto.			
Sultana	Do.	304	75	35	14	Oct. 13	16	11	3	Oct. 28	Do. do. & Fever.	2	2	..	19 "	286	62	32	13	Nov. 17	Ditto. Ditto.			

Immigration Office, Port Louis, 26th May 1856.

T. HUGON, Protector of Immigrants.

EXTRACTS from a letter of the Chief Medical Officer (the late Dr. Thom) 23
dated 1st July 1853 and addressed to the Colonial Secretary.

"So far from a third part only of these hours being appropriated to the Civil duty, the *whole* of the six are generally required for it, and not only this, but early in the morning, late at night, and on the day of rest, I am obliged to receive "urgent" and "immediate" letters and to act, or communicate instructions on the matters contained in them, otherwise great inconvenience and much evil would arise to public health, trade and shipping. My principle in this, as in the Military Service, has been to act at once in urgent cases and trust to public justice for the remuneration due to all public servants."

"The arrival of a vessel put in temporary quarantine, obliges me to examine her log book, the returns of diseases, deaths, &c., with a degree of more than ordinary care and perhaps to go to the Bell Buoy under circumstances which do occasionally occur; and then follows a correspondence with Government detailing the reasons for continuing or relaxing restrictions; defining the duration and general arrangements which may be peculiar to the case or position of the vessel."

"Instructions have to be sent through the Port Office, to the guard boat, the Lazaret Officer, the Port Surgeon &c., &c., in each case, and military sentries to be applied for."

The daily reports and requisitions from the Lazaret Officer for supplies, are all to be attended to."

True Extracts.
(Signed :) J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Extracts from the Schedule of the Chief Medical Officer's Establishment for 1854.

"The Chief Medical Officer has the controul of the Pratique."

"The Chief Medical Officer is also to superintend the state of the Public Prisons, and whatever else that regards the public health."

True Extracts.
(Signed :) J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

REPORT on Epidemic of Malignant Cholera in Mauritius, 24
in March and April 1856.

The first case of Cholera in this Epidemic occurred on the 3rd of March in a Serjeant of Sappers and Miners stationed at Fort George; it was a distinct well marked case of Cholera, but did not prove fatal. On the following day, another case occurred in an Artillery man quartered in the Citadel, also not fatal; this man had not left the Citadel for a week before and then only on duty.

The first two cases among the Civil population of the Island occurred simultaneously on the night between the 4th and 5th March, altho' at a considerable distance from each other; one of the affected persons being the book-keeper of the "Louisa" Estate in Pamplemousses and the other a woman residing in Labourdonnais street in Port Louis. The former of these persons recovered, but a man who went from Port Louis to attend him took the disease and died; the woman also died on the 7th but on the 6th a cook from the Champ-de-Mars was brought to the Civil Hospital and died of Cholera, this being the first death from the Epidemic, on the 7th a child living below the Citadel and a female servant in the Company's Garden died of Cholera. On the 8th, 9th and 10th there were only

one or two deaths each day, on the 11th 5 ; and on the 12th 14, when the disease may be considered as being fully Epidemic.

From the 12th to the 16th the weather was very unfavorable to the progress of the epidemic, being very unsettled, with rain and wind, and a good supply of electricity in the atmosphere, and accordingly during this period the mortality increased very slowly, gradually rising to 20 on the 15th. After this day, the weather became extremely favourable to the propagation of the disease the wind being chiefly from the N. W. and extremely light with a gradual diminution of atmospheric electricity from the 16th to the 24th on which day there was none whatever perceptible. Accordingly during this period, the epidemic went on steadily and rapidly increasing, and on the 24th it took a great sudden development, its principal seat being the black camp on the side of the signal Mountain, all along which, and down to Casis it raged on this day with the greatest virulence. On this day, the 24th, the prevalence of the epidemic was at its height, and its results appeared in the mortality of the 27th which amounted to 125, being the maximum mortality in any one day ; the next highest being 96 on the 26th and 86 on the 28th.

On the 26th there was very little electricity but a strong trade went blowing ; from the 27th to the 31st the atmosphere electricity gradually increased, and during this period the daily mortality diminished by one half, falling from 125 to 68.

On the 27th the disease abated on the side of the signal Mountain and broke out violently in the Malabar Town in the opposite suburb, and also in the neighbourhood of the Corderie street.

During the first five days of April, the disease went on slowly abating, from the 5th to the 7th the weather and the electrical condition of the atmosphere were more favourable to its decline, and on the 8th the mortality had fallen to 11. From the 8th to the 14th it continued nearly stationary, the daily mortality being from 12 to 14, but on the 16th it fell to 6, and on the 18th to 5.

The total mortality from Cholera in the Town of Port-Louis, including the Garrison amounted to 1397 persons from the 6th March to the 18th April inclusively.

The loss of the Garrison of Port Louis amounts to 35, being greater than in the former epidemic when it was only 28.

On comparing the two epidemics, the first point of difference that appears is the greatly diminished mortality of the present one. This is precisely what might be expected, from the diminished predisposition to the disease of those persons who had been so recently exposed to it.

This principle has been well exemplified in the progress of the epidemic among the Troops. The soldiers who have recently arrived and were not present during the epidemic of 1854 form but a small part of the Garrison of Port Louis, yet these men have furnished about three fourths of the Military victims of the present epidemic.

The next point of difference is that in 1854, the atmosphere was immediately poisoned, and in five or six days, disease travelled by regular stages, from Port Louis to the most distant parts of the Island. Consequently the whole Colony was suffering at once. On the present occasion, nothing of this kind occurred, and up to the present day, the District of Pamplemousses is the only one that has suffered to any extent. In Pamplemousses, the mortality has been very great, particularly as in the former epidemic along the borders of the Canals that exist in that District, and in the Village of Grand' Baie.

In Port Louis on this, as on the former occasion, the disease has prevailed

chiefly in the two suburbs, the Malabar Town to the eastward and what is called the Black Camp on the side of the signal Mountain, the sanitary condition of these localities being extremely bad.

A part of the District of Savanne was affected at the very beginning of the Epidemic the disease being evidently introduced into the District by a Prisoner who went down from Port Louis, about the 8th March and was seized with Cholera on the road ; on his arrival in Savanne, the disease spread to those in contact with or near him.

Of the Country Districts, the only one which has suffered to any great extent is that of Pamplémousses, in which the ravages of the disease have been very great, and, as in the former epidemic, the deaths have been very numerous along the banks of the Canals which exist in this District, and in the Village of Grand Baie. Of the large mortality in this District (598) one sixth occurred on one property, while the neighbouring estates almost entirely escaped.

The large District of Grand Port has, as yet suffered little or nothing from the Epidemic.

The loss of the Troops amounts to 35 men, being chiefly those men of the Royal Artillery and 85th Regiment who were not in the Island during the former epidemic. The young soldiers of the 5th Regiment from being stationed at Mahébourg have escaped. On the whole, the troops have relatively to the civil population suffered more from this Epidemic than from the former, which is attributable to the fact of the disease having localised itself in two points of the Garrison, vizt.: in a part of the Barracks occupied by the 85th Regiment and in a part of the Military Hospital occupied by the same corps.

Several of the public establishments which suffered most severely from the disease in 1854 have on this occasion almost escaped.

For example, the Prison of Port Louis which was in 1854 the principal focus of the disease, have on this occasion been almost free from it. This may be partly attributable to the night soil being now removed by the Inodore Company, and not, as formerly by the sewers which are now clean and empty.

The total mortality by Cholera up to this day is as follows :

Port Louis, Civil Population.....	1385
Do. Military	37
Pamplémousses.....	692
Plaines Wilhems.....	145
Rivière du Rempart	119
Savanne	85
Flacq	81
Black River.....	65
Moka	70
Grand Port.....	8

Total,.... 2646

Mauritius, 19th April 1856.

(Signed) GEO. CLERIHUEW, M. D.
Chief Medical Officer.

Mauritius, May 10th 1856.

After the date of the above report, the Epidemic continued steadily to decline in Port Louis, the few cases occurring being almost entirely in the outskirts of the Town particularly about Roche Bois, and some of them at Grand River. At the end of the month. it ceased entirely in Port Louis, the few cases occurring being

in persons from the country, newly arrived, who had apparently received the poison before their departure, and come to the Town during the period of incubation.

The neighbouring District of Pamplemousses has continued to suffer extensively, altho the disease commenced there at a very early period ; whereas in Savanne, where the Epidemic began simultaneously with Port Louis, there has been no death from Cholera since the 20th ultimo, the disease having apparently run its course there.

The District of Grand Port has hitherto escaped in a very singular manner ; but, as the disease has during the last fortnight prevailed extensively in the upper part of Plaines Wilhems, it is to be apprehended that it will go on to Grand Port.

About the 25th April, the Epidemic appeared simultaneously at the two out posts of Flacq and Mahebourg, the first case among the troops at each of those stations occurring on the 27th. Therefore, on this occasion the disease has taken more than six weeks to travel from Port Louis, across the Island to these two posts, whereas, in the former Epidemic, it did so in six days, a mode of progression evidently atmospheric, as the intervening country was affected at the same time.

The Harbour of Port Louis and places connected with it, have suffered very much more on this occasion than in 1854. During the former Epidemic, only a very few cases of Cholera occurred among the numerous crews of the Shipping in the Harbour, while the large establishment of the Dock Company with its hundreds of laborers, in like manner escaped, as did also the neighbouring Military Barracks on the Caudan Creek, opening with the Harbour ; now in the present Epidemic all this has been reversed ; many fatal cases have occurred among the crews of the ships in Harbour, the Dock Company has lost a great many laborers, and the Caudan Barracks have been so severely visited as to render their total evacuation necessary.

So many instances of this have occurred, of places severely affected in the one Epidemic escaping in the other, while those which had formerly suffered but little have been now most severely visited ; and so many instances have occurred of the capricious, and apparently unaccountable manner of progress of the disease, that we are almost driven to the conclusion that the comparative immunity of some places and the severe sufferings of others are in a great degree accidental, the disease being determined to some places and not to others, without any perceptible reason for the diversity.

One of the most remarkable facts in the history of both Epidemics, and more specially of the present one, is the escape of the attendants in the Civil Hospital, and of the ordinary patients in that Hospital, under treatment for other diseases. In the present Epidemic, the whole of the Cholera patients in Port Louis who were sent for Hospital treatment, were received into the Civil Hospital, and yet the ordinary patients in that large establishment almost entirely escaped, while among the attendants necessarily very numerous, only one case of Cholera occurred and that was in a man who absented himself one night from the Hospital, and was brought back next day with Cholera.

The mortality from Cholera in the different Districts of the Island, since the 20th ultimo, the above report extending to the 19th is as follows :

Port Louis.....	62
Pamplemousses.....	153
Rivière du Rempart.....	84
Flacq.....	76
Grand Port.....	14
Savanne.....	0
Black River.....	66

	455
Plaines Wilhems.....	95
Moka.....	27
	<hr/>
Total....	577

True Copy.

(Signed :)

J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.Immigration Office,
28th May 1856.

25

No. 68.

Sir,

In the return which I sent you the Immigrants landed at Flat Island and Gabriel Island not being indicated, I have the honor to forward a corrected Return, the Immigrants of the *Progress* were released only in January last which was the cause of her not having been included in the first Return.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant.

T. HUGON,
Protector of Immigrants.

To the Honorable the Acting Colonial Secretary.

RETURN of Immigrants landed in Quarantine at Gabriel and Flat Islands previous to 1856.

SHIP'S NAME.	Presi- dency.	Originally embarked.				Date of arrival at Bell Buoy.	Deaths on the pas- sage from India.				Date of landing at the La- zaretto.	From what Disease.	Deaths during the Quarantine at the Lazaretto.				Period of their re- maining at Laza- retto.	Number released from the Lazaretto.				Date of landing at Port Louis.	REMARKS.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
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T. HUGON, Protector of Immigrants.

Immigration Office, Port Louis, 28th May 1856.

* N. B. * The two last vessels landed their Immigrants at Gabriel Island, and the other at Flat Island.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
30th September 1856.

B. No. 604.

Sir,

26

With reference to your letter of the 9th July requesting to be favored with a copy of the Report sent in to Government by Dr Montgomery on the subject of Cholera, I have now the honor, by direction of His Excellency the Governor to transmit to you herewith the copy required. The delay that has occurred in complying with your request has been occasioned by the original papers having been mislaid and my having been unable to procure a copy of them from Dr. Montgomery at an earlier moment.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant.

J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

To the Honorable Henry Koenig Esq.,
President of the Committee of Inquiry into the last outbreak of Cholera.

3rd June 1856.

*RETURN of Cholera Patients treated in the Civil Hospital from
6th March to 31st May 1856.*

DENOMINATION.	ADMITTED.			DISCHARGED.			DIED.							Remaining.
	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	Period in Hospital.				TOTAL.	
									12 hours.	24 hours.	48 hours.	later period.		
Europeans.....	52	..	52	23	..	23	29	..	15	5	3	6	29	..
Creoles free born	4	..	4	3	..	3	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
Ex-Apprentices.	84	15	99	16	3	16	70	10	45	22	7	6	80	..
Indians.....	331	9	340	131	3	134	199	7	73	69	32	32	206	..
Grand Total....	471	24	495	173	6	179	299	17	133	97	42	44	316	..

REMARKS.

The deaths as compared with the admissions is no criterior as to the success of the treatment, few, if any, patients having been admitted in the early stage of the disease, and it is the early stage alone that affords any hope of recovery, as I consider the fluid ejected to be symph or the vital portion of the blood, and the state of debility depends upon the quantity of symph lost by these ejections. In collapse symph may be considered to be expended when human means are of no avail. Many medical men contend that the premonitory symptoms of Cholerine cannot be true Cholera: the question is, if not checked by prophylactic means, would it

not have become true Cholera. I say yes, ergo if prophylactics check the disease the interference is that if they do not cure Cholera they prevent its invasion.

TREATMENT.

The treatment of Cholera in the present invasion is diametrically different to that of 1854, and I hope founded on more rational principles. As we live, we learn, my views of the Remote and Proximate causes of Cholera are as follows : They are the results of personal observations.

The remote cause, I consider, to be a morbid poison generated in the atmosphere, most probably from a want of Electricity, as shewn by Lieut. Fyer's observations at the Royal Engineers Observatory. I remarked that Cholera increased or diminished in proportion to the Quarantine of Electricity in the atmosphere.

I consider the Proximate cause to arise from this Poison acting on the nervous system. I was led to form my opinion as to the remote cause by the fact, that prior to its invasion, and its duration, scarcely an individual escaped from experiencing a certain "Malaise" or depression of the usual mental or bodily energy, the digestive organs being affected, either by flatulence, constipation or relaxation of the bowels, these were in general checked by Prophylactics when taken in time, what I generally used was an infusion of "Hyapanah" and Ginger, with Brandy ; others used Camphor dilute, Sulphuric Acid &c.

The lower animals are also affected ; more particularly the feathered tribe, great mortality amongst the Poultry, and the Martins leave Port Louis to seek a more healthy atmosphere elsewhere, and return in pairs as the disease subsides, this was particularly remarked by the keeper of the Cemetery at Fort Blanc.

The Proximate causes arise from atmospheric poison acting on the nervous system, the digestive organs being most essential to life, from generating all the supplies, are the first and most sensibly attacked. Their action is inverted, the stomach no longer secretes a healthy gastric juice, the other organs cease to perform their functions the chyle if secreted or generated is in a vitiated state, the lacteals cease to absorb it, so that the blood is deprived of its nutrition. As the secretions of the stomach are vitiated, nature established vomiting to relieve it of its vitiated contents. Purging is also established to remove the vitiated contents of the bowels, on the same principle Ergo, we should assist nature by the liberal administration of Emetics and Fluids to remove the vitiated contents of the stomach. It has been observed that a quantity of matter resembling cocoanut oil is trown off when fluids are freely drank, which the ward Master of the Hospital designated Cholera poison, and with few exceptions when this was thrown off freely, the patient recovered. This happy result can only be expected when the remedy is applied in the early stage of the disease. The stomach being relieved, the bowels sympathise and nature endeavours to establish a reaction or restore the healthy balance of the circulation ; when this happy result fails, the treatment must depend upon the subsequent symptoms. If nausea continues mild diffusive stimulants, such as camphor mixture in doses of an ounce and compound spirits of ammonia in from 30 to 40 drops. In cases when these were found ineffectual I have given 1 g. camphor 1 g. calomel and 1½ g. of morphia with most beneficial effects. The first patient to whom I gave this dose was a European, his stomach was so irritable that it would not retain even ice water. The first dose arrested the vomiting, the second produced composed sound sleep, from which he awoke with slight nausea which was arrested by a repetition of the Pill ; his subsequent treatment consisted of mild tonics with nourishment &c.

When purging continued after emetics, 20 drops of laudanum were added to the camphor mixture, or the camphor pill was administered, when these remedies failed, and cramps set in stronger stimulants were given with sinapisus stimulating embrocations accompanied with day heat, heat with moisture, I invariably found prejudicial as exciting evaporation, when we ought to endeavour to retain

all the heat generated. When debility followed the Cholera symptoms gentle tonics, such as infusion of gentian were administered with sago or arrow-root fowl or beef soup and Port wine, in fact every thing calculated to assist nature in regenerating symph. It would be of no avail to follow out further the mode of treatment, I may remark that I consider all sedatives, too powerful, stimulants such as previously administered highly prejudicial as counteracting the efforts of nature to restore the reaction.

I forbear offering an opinion as to the contagious nature of Cholera or its mode of introduction. Let the following facts speak for themselves. During the Cholera in 1854 there was a daily average of no less than 194 souls in Hospital, there were only seven patients who could be said to have contracted the disease, these were predisposed from previous disease and would have died had Cholera never existed, five servants died of Cholera, these men slept out at night and returned labouring under the Cholera, two were picked up outside the gate in the morning in a dying state. These men did not contract the disease in the Hospital. There was the Porter, his wife and five children, the ward master, the same, the steward, his wife and four children constantly exposed, yet none contracted the disease, neither have they in the present invasion, although the Porter and Ward Master were aroused out of their beds 72 times from the 14th March to 17th April for the admission of Cholera Patients, both are sickly men, predisposed to contract the disease. Five patients are said to have contracted the disease four of whom died, those were in the same state as described for those who died in 1854. One servant contracted the disease and died, his case was a peculiar one. He had been guilty of misconduct, was sent to the Mayor and condemned to a fine; in place of returning he went to Grand River where he remained until the evening when he returned drunk, was attacked at midnight and died the following evening. He could not be said to have contracted the disease in the Hospital. Two men were employed to remove the dead bodies to the dead house, there were 170 in 1854 and 307 this year, they have not yet contracted the disease.

As to the manner of its introduction, my opinion is founded on common sense and due consideration. In 1854, several cases were proved to have existed long prior to the *Sultany's* arrival. This year a seaman named Thomas Baker, belonging to the Ship *Utopia* was admitted into Hospital labouring under symptoms of Cholera, on the 16th February he recovered, and was discharged on the 23rd same month, the Ship going to sea, I reported his case as simple Cholera.

I cannot reconcile to my mind that the disease can be introduced by vessels lying at the Bell Buoy, unless first attacking the soldiers in the two posts and the vessel in the Harbour in succession, such was not the case, the first that came to my knowledge in 1854, was a boy who had been 6 months in the Prison and who never had communication with others than those residing in the Prison, and it is to be remarked that all the cases of the Cholera with the exception of 3 or 4, were confined in the same range of cells, which were pronounced by a Medical Committee, of which I was a member, to be unhealthy in the extreme, as proved by the fact that they have since undergone repair, and have been free from the epidemic, in the present invasion. These are incontestable facts, and facts are stubborn facts.

The Ships from which Cholera Patients were sent to Hospital this year lay in the inner part of the Harbour close to the wharf, and their Captains reported that they had contracted the disease on shore from whence they returned drunk; there are many curious facts which have come to my knowledge, that Cholera owes its origin to Atmospheric causes. So far back as 1821 a Dr Gibb, from India informs me that it would attack a village, carry off some hundred of persons in one night, and all at once disappear, having no trace of the disease beyond its victims, whereas had it been contagious, it would have continued to increase. In Paris in 1832 it commenced on 26th March and increased so rapidly that in 18 days (on the 14th April) it had reached its climax, had already extended to all the Quarters of Paris, and had been fatal to 7,000 people. It is scarcely possible to

conceive that this was the effect of contagion of the reproduction and increase of the morbid poison solely within the bodies of the sick from the sick, and its subsequent communication, to other persons previously healthy. (Baly's Report of Epidemic Cholera fol : 47.) His Majesty's Ship *Andromatic* Capt. Chads, sailed from hence for Madras on the 30th November 1835, the crew in the enjoyment of perfect health. On the 2nd morning after sailing, 14 men of the watch on the after part of the Quarter Deck were struck down with Cholera, none other of the Crew were attacked, This was communicated to me by Dr. Hall on his return from India. The Ship *Lord Raglan* sailed from the Sand Heads from London on the 28th March 1855 with a general Cargo, and 160 men of an European Regiment on board, another Ship in company, when within three degrees of the Equator, Cholera broke out simultaneous in both ships the *Lord Raglan* lost several men when the disease as suddenly disappeared after two days. On their arrival in London they met a Captain from Bombay, on comparing Logs all three ships appeared to have been attacked at the same hour, on the same day and in the same Latitude, but 300 miles distant in Longitude, the Bombay ship from the Calcutta ones. This was communicated to me by Captain Good of the ship *Merrington*. I have heard of other similar cases. Two vessels were said to have sailed from Bordeaux the same day for different Ports of America ; when about 1,000 miles distance the one ship from the other, in the same latitude, both ships were attacked with Cholera, simultaneously on the same day and at the same hour. A case was reported to me by the Captain of a ship bound to India with Passengers on board, when 200 miles distance from Ceylon a current of air passed through the cuddy windows, striking down every soul with Cholera who were sitting at the table, all other escaped. During the prevalence of the Cholera here in 1854, I was in the habit of taking a little brandy in the morning with my coffee, this I did with impunity during the prevalence of the disease. As it subsided, I became so sensibly affected with the brandy that I was compelled to leave it off, the same has happened in the present invasion, this, though trivial is not unimportant, as shewing the effect of the Atmospheric on the human constitution.

As regards the case on board the *Victoria* I consider and still consider it sporadic, I was called by Captain Wales early on the morning to enquire into the case, on my arrival at the Port. I found a number of persons congregated together, desirous of arriving at the truth, I called for the Pilot who commanded the *Victoria*. He referred me for information to a person who, he said was brother to the deceased. This man told me that his brother had been so ill the night prior to their sailing for Gabriel Island that their father endeavoured to dissuade him from going. His father then gave him a dose of Castor oil, that he was towed in the boat astern of the *Victoria* that he was dosed with brandy and piments, in my opinion quite sufficient to produce Cholera with a stomach previously weakened by Castor oil and nothing to drink but cold water, and exposure to the night air, none others of the men or Crew employed contracted the disease. The disease is of so mysterious a nature as to be beyond the search of human investigation, that rests with the Divinity alone Cholera is also capricious in its march, as the localities attacked in 1854 have escaped this invasion and vice versa. How is this to be accounted for ?

(Signed) ALEX. MONTGOMERY,
Surgeon of the Civil Hospital.

A true Copy.
(Signed) R. Y. CUMMINS,
Asst. Colonial Secretary.

Mr. Milward.

MEMORANDUM.

1 A. No. 819.

His Excellency the Governor directs that a Committee composed of :
The Protector of Immigrants.
— Assistant Harbour Master.
— Clerk of works, Surveyor General Department,

will assemble this day to inspect the tarpaulins at the Civil Stores and report at once on the following points; viz.:

1. The number unserviceable.
2. The number in good order.
3. The number wanting repair.

and

4. The number required to be purchased to afford in all accommodation for 500 Coolies.

(Signed) J. DOWLAND,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
17th October 1856.

A true Copy.

STAIR DOUGLAS,
Pro Colonial Secretary.

18th October 1855.

To The Honorable the Colonial Secretary, &c., &c., &c.

Sir,

In conformity with your memorandum of yesterday's date conveying His Excellency's directions that we should assemble at once to inspect the tarpaulins at the Civil Stores and report on the following points, we have the honor to submit the following information :

1. The number inserviceable, none.
2. The number in good order, seven.
3. The number wanting repair, three.

4. The number required to be purchased to afford in all accommodation for 500 Coolies; twenty new ones, 20 feet by 15 feet; each one required; one hundred and twenty five poles and about 100 lbs. of cord will be necessary to be furnished to make the tents.

We have &c.

(Signed) T. HUGON,
J. C. C. MILWARD,
Clerk of works, Surveyor General's Department.

True Copy.

STAIR DOUGLAS,
Pro Colonial Secretary.

Department Order, January 24th 1856.

In consequence of the increase of sickness among the immigrants in quarantine on Gabriel Island, it has been considered advisable to cut off as much as possible all communications for the present between the main land and the Island, as the close proximity of the latter to the quarantine ground may have led to some intercourse. 2

Notice to be given to Mr. Bauckham not to send any stores or men over to Flat Island until this prohibition is removed and nothing is to be sent over from this Department.

The Prisoners and free laborers now on Flat Island are, I believe, rationed up to the end of February. should the sickness on Gabriel Island continue, the rations which must be sent about the middle of next month will have to be landed with

such precautions as may be deemed necessary by the Principal Medical Officer to whom reference on the subject must be previously made.

(Signed) E. C. FROME,
Surveyor General.

True Copy.
V. BIRD HULM,
Acting Chief Clerk.

1

Dr. Labat.

Civil Hospital, 27th February 1856.

To Dr. G. Clerihew, C. M. O.

Sir,

I have the honor to report to you that at 1½ past 10 o'clock last night I was called on board the Steamer *Victoria* to attend a creole man named Alfred whom on my arrival I found labouring under the last symptoms of Asiatic Cholera and died this morning at 1 o'clock.

I have &c.

(Signed) LABAT,

True Copy.
LABAT.

N. B. The same was forwarded to : Dr. Montgomery, Surgeon in charge,
C. F. B. Dawkins, Superintendent of Police,
And the Hon. Louis Léchelle, Esq., Mayor of Port Louis.

Copy sent to the Assistant Surgeon, Civil Hospital, for his information.

Colonial Secretary's Office
28th February 1856.

2

The Chief Medical Officer.

Sir,

I deemed it my duty to represent to His Excellency the Governor the very unguarded manner in which Mr. Labat, assistant Surgeon at the Civil Hospital thought fit to report to you the case of alleged Cholera which occurred on board the *Victoria* steamer on Tuesday evening and His Excellency has desired me to request that you will inform Mr. Labat that he acted most thoughtlessly in inscribing the word Cholera on the corner of the envelope inclosing his report and that, in reproving him for thus acting in a manner calculated to excite alarm amongst the Public you will enjoin him to be more circumspect and considerate for the future.

I have &a,

(Signed) J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary,

True Copy.

(Signed) GEO. CLERIHEW.
C. M. O.

Civil Hospital 6th March 1856.

3

To Dr. G. CLERIHEW
C. M. O.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you, in the absence of Dr. Montgomery who is at

Moka for an accouchement, that an Indian named "Samy" who was brought to Hospital from Municipality at 1 o'clock P. M. appears to be labouring under Cholera. I beg to request you will be pleased to call at the Civil Hospital to give your opinion on the case.

I have &a.,

(Signed) LABAT.

Civil Hospital, 7th March 1856.

To Dr. G. CLERIHEW
C. M. O.

4

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that the Indian Samy sent to Hospital yesterday labouring under Cholera Morbus died this morning at 5 o'clock. I beg you may be pleased to let me know how I am to act with regard to the corpse.

I have &a.,

(Signed) LABAT.

Civil Medical Department, 7th March 1856.

To Asst. Surgeon LABAT
Civil Hospital.

5

Sir,

In reply to your letter of this morning I have to inform you that the body of the Indian dead of Cholera is to be enveloped in a cloth saturated with a strong solution of chloride of lime in the coffin, to be then buried in the Cemetery.

I have &a.,

(Signed) GEO. CLERIHEW,
C. M. O.

Civil Hospital, 9th March 1856.

To Dr. G. CLERIHEW
C. M. O.

6

Sir,

I beg to inform you that a case of Cholera has this moment 2. 30 P. M. been brought to Hospital from the Civil and Criminal Prisons. I make this communication that you may be aware of what may be likely to follow.

I have &a.,

Signed : LABAT.

*General Report of Patients labouring under Cholera Morbus from 6th
March to the 16th June 1856.*

DENOMINATIONS.	Total admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	Died not vied.	Total.	REMARKS.
Europeans	53	23	17	13	53	Including 1 Hospit. patient who [died.
Creoles.	4	3	1	—	4	.....
Ex-Apprentices	99	19	38	42	99	Including 1 Hospit. patient who [died.
Indians.....	343	134	132	77	343	Do. 3 do. do. of whom 2 died and 1 discharged.
TOTAL,	499	179	188	132	499	

Inserted in the Surgeon in charge's books..... 77

Do. Assistant Surgeon..... 422

Total admitted..... 499

(Signed) LABAT,
Assistant Surgeon.

Slight cases of Cholera or Cholerine previous to 6th March 1856.

No.	Departments.	Names.	Denomination.	Age.	Admitted.		Discharged.	
1	Shippg. Dep. Bg. Trajan..	J. Spratt.....	E.	33	January...	23	February..	4
—	— — Ship Robina.	J. McDowell.....	—	16	—	31	—	—
—	Private Mr. Peyras.....	Tacour.....	ind.	30	February..	10	—	14
—	— Mr. Renaud.....	Godiram.....	—	—	—	15	—	18
—	Shippg. Dep. Ship Ethiopia	J. Baker.....	E.	25	—	16	—	23
6	Private Mr. Bruniquel..	Mootoosamy.....	ind.	35	—	25	—	29

Inserted in the Surgeon charge's books 3 Europeans.

Do. Assistant Surgeon 3 Indians.

Total admitted..... 6

LABAT,
Assistant Surgeon.

9th July 1856.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward to you copies of letters addressed by me to the Superintendent of the Quarantine Station at Gabriel Island required by the Committee as also Report by Mr. Docker on a case of Sporadic Cholera in August last.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant

GEO. CLERIHUEW,
C. M. O.

The Honorable Henry Koenig Esq.,
President of the Cholera Committee.

George Jackson, aged 37 (in charge of Mr. Docker).

Date
1855.

Disease with detailed Symptoms.

August 21st An Englishman ; labourer ; 21 years service ; of good constitution, never having been in Hospital, excepting once for a week, many years ago, habits intemperate.

Admitted at 7 A. M. with severe purging, vomiting and pain in the belly ; his stools are frequent, scanty and of perfect rice water appearance ; has severe cramps also in the legs, his voice is shrill, countenance livid and eyes sunk with a dark circle round them ; breath and tongue cold, urine suppressed, pulse 110 almost imperceptible, surface of the body warm. It seems he had diarrhea the greater part of yesterday, began to be severely ill at 10 last night, and, though he so continued, was actually dressed to go on guard at this morning.

8 A. M. Much the same ; purging and vomiting continue, though cramps have ceased and he has less pain in the belly ; the emetic was rejected immediately and had to be repeated, it was then retained usual time.

9 A. M. Purging has quite ceased for near an hour, vomiting less frequent, pulse still very low, no more cramps.

11 A. M. Somewhat better ; pulse 120 a little stronger ; breath and tongue less cold ; purging has not returned ; vomits occasionally ; 2nd only of blood could be obtained it flowed thick and black.

4 P. M. Improvement continues ; pulse 116 stronger ; warmth quite restored ; no return of purging ; vomits still a little.

10 P. M. Favorable Symptoms maintained ; pulse fallen to 104 fuller ; no action of bowels ; no urine as yet.

August 22. Much better ; slept very well during the night ; little if any excitement ; pulse 90 soft, tongue clean and moist ; enema took no effect and his bowels have not been moved neither has he passed any urine ; quite free from headache or other pain.

Vesp. Bowels moved 4 times, copiously, since morning stools feculent and semifluid ; has passed urine.

23. Complains of pain across the lower part of the abdomen and there is tenderness on pressure over the cœcum ; bowels moved 12 or 13 times, stools copious, watery and sanious, with masses

of blood and mucus ; very little feculent matters ; vomits greenish fluid ; pulse 90 weak ; tongue clean and moist ; complains of thirst.

Vesp. Rather less pain to day ; bowels moved a dozen times watery sanæous with a little floating feculence.

August 24 Reports himself free from pain ; but there is still tenderness over the cæcum on deep pressure. Not much excitement ; pulse 92 soft ; tongue foul ; was frequently at stool during the night ; but passed very little : stools as described yester eve.

Vesp. Bowels not moved since morning, no pain.

25. Appears better on the whole ; no pain in the abdomen, and little if any tenderness on pressure, pulse 84 soft, tongue coated but moist ; bowels moved twice in the night, stools semi solid and bilious ; passes urine freely ; mouth sore.

26. Improvement continues ; 3 natural stools, pulse 80.

28. Convalescent ; bowels confined.

29. Bowels open.

31. Same report.

September 4. Idem.

7. Discharged.

E. S. DOCKER,
Surgeon, V Fusiliers.

Dr. Finnimore.

REPORT.

On the mortality amongst the Immigrants lately undergoing Quarantine at Gabriel Island ; together with some suggestions as to the nature, and extent of the Quarantine Establishment proposed to be erected on Flat and Gabriel Islands.

The following observations are made at the request and for the information of the Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor to inquire into the circumstances attending the recent outbreak of Cholera. In carrying out the wishes of the Committee, I have thought it best to treat the subject on the following plan and to consider.

I. The sanitary state of the Immigrants previous to and on their embarkation at Calcutta.

II. The nature, and extent of the accommodation, and the quantity and quality of the provisions provided for them on board Ship.

III. The period at which disease first appeared on board Ship, the nature of the diseases, and the number of deaths.

IV. The condition of the Immigrants on their arrival at the Quarantine Station, and the nature and extent of the accommodation there provided for their reception.

V. The state of affairs from the landing of the Immigrants up to the 26th February as detailed by eye witnesses.

VI. The condition in which, I myself found them and the subsequent steps taken to ameliorate their condition.

VII. The progress of the Epidemic.

I. No arguments are necessary to prove the extreme importance of strict medical supervision in the selection of Immigrants, and that the success of any extensive scheme of Coolie Immigration must in a great degree depend on the care, and vigilance with which the inspection is carried on previous to and on embarkation. In the instance immediately under consideration there are strong grounds for suspecting that the Indians were allowed to embark whilst disease was rife amongst them, nor is there reason for supposing that this negligence was merely accidental or exceptional. The native Doctor of the *Futtay Mombarrack* informed me that he had been as many as seventeen voyages with Coolies, that there was nothing remarkable in the condition of the Immigrants when they embarked, that their health was good both previous to and on embarkation and that they were medically inspected as usual, and yet he states on cross examination that on the very day of embarkation seven cases of disease were declared, all cases of dysentery or diarrhoea, and that one of them was a woman who was almost a skeleton. This was the 9th December 1855. On the following day (10th), two more cases of dysentery occurred. On the 12th, four cases of dysentery, and two of fever occurred; on the 13rd, three of fever, and one of dysentery; on the 17th, two of fever, and two of dysentery, and so on. This subject is really more important in its bearings on the general question of Immigration than on the particular instance now under consideration, though doubtless the circumstances detailed above may very probably have aided in rendering the Immigrants more liable to succumb to the morbid influences to which they were exposed on Gabriel Island.

II. The statements of the Native Doctor and of some of the Sirdars whom I questioned tend to prove that the accommodation provided for the Immigrants on board the two ships *Futtay Mombarrack* and *Hyderree* was of the usual description, as also were the water and provisions; so that the subsequent mortality cannot be in any way attributed to a deficiency in either of these particulars. Still it may not be together irrelevant if I state that the system of provisioning Coolie Ships at present adopted is open to strong objections, inasmuch as there is every reason to believe that a large proportion of the Coolies, are accustomed to a diet which differs very materially from that provided for them on board Ship, and in such cases the exclusive use of Rice, dholl, &c. is notoriously productive of dysentery, and other affections of the bowels.

III. It has already been stated that disease showed itself amongst the Coolies of the *Futtay Mombarrack* on the day of embarkation. It would appear however that the first fatal case, one of dysentery, occurred on the 21st December, i. e. twelve days after embarkation. So far as I have been able to ascertain no case of Cholera occurred on board this Ship during the voyage.

The native Doctor of the *Hyderree* having died before I reached Gabriel Island I was unable to obtain any reliable account of the state of health of the Coolies on board this Ship during the voyage. One of the sirdars, named Chinaman, informed me, however, that the first case of sickness occurred on the 20th day after embarkation and that it was a case of Cholera and proved fatal; no other case of Cholera occurred during the voyage. It would also appear that no cases of Cholera occurred in either of these vessels whilst they were at the Bell Buoy. The total number of deaths on board the two Ships from the date of embarkation up to the landing of the Coolies on Gabriel Island is reported to have been fifty five. Thirty of these occurred on board the *Futtay Mombarrack* and twenty five on board the *Hyderree*. The total number of souls originally em-

barked was 747 so that the rate of mortality was about 7 p. o/o. The native Doctor of the *Futtay Mombarrack* had been as many as seventeen voyages with Coolies to the Mauritius; in many of these, no deaths occurred and the greatest number that died on any one voyage previous to this last was five.

IV. It would appear that the ship *Futtay Mombarrack* reached the Mauritius on January 1856, and on the 13th disembarked her Coolies at Gabriel Island. The Coolies were supplied with water and provisions for two days from on board Ship which is, I am informed, the usual practice. It would also appear that there was no staff on the Island to receive the Coolies and the only means of shelter were some tarpaulins and poles; these together with some stores were under the charge of Mr. Smith who, with the exception of the Light House people, was the only European on the Island.

The Indians had to erect the tents themselves in the best way they could; Mr. Finlay with some Policemen arrived two days later, viz: 15th. Serjeant Brown states that when he landed on this day he found the Coolies in a miserable condition, apparently not recovered from the effects of sea sickness, wretchedly clothed and very imperfectly sheltered. He thinks that had the tarpaulins been properly arranged the shelter might have been sufficient as the weather was then fine. As it was, however, a considerable number of the Indians were lying under rocks, and trees in a very dirty, and miserable state. The Police brought an additional supply of poles, and tarpaulins with them. Two days later, however, the *Hydere* landed her Coolies, thus increasing the number of persons requiring shelter to (about) 798, whereas Serjeant Brown thinks that the means then at his disposal was not more than sufficient to shelter 500, that is, supposing the weather had kept moderately fine. It would appear that the supply of provisions was from the first ample and that there was never any deficiency at any period of the Quarantine.

V. On the 18th of January rain set in and continued with intermissions up to the 22nd. The shelter proved insufficient, the Indians consequently built some huts for themselves, but even then many of them were without shelter. Both huts and tents let in a great deal of water and many of the latter were blown down. The clothing also of the Immigrants was very scanty even if they had been properly housed, but exposed as they were to the inclemency of the weather it was utterly inadequate.

During the whole time the rain lasted, the condition of the people was terrible; during one whole day the weather was too boisterous to admit of their lighting fires to cook their food with. On the 19th the supply of water was short, the transport of it from Flat Island having been interrupted from the same cause. On the 20th water arrived from Port Louis, but it was not good, and it was with considerable difficulty that the Indians were induced to boil their rice with it. On the 21st the supply of water from Flat Island was returned, but in insufficient quantity. On the 22d and 23d the supply was still insufficient. I possess no information as to what occurred during the interval which elapsed between January 24th and February 18th, during which period Serjeant Brown was ill with fever. He, however, states that on returning to his duty he found things much improved; the supply of water was ample, and the shelter more efficient, the Indians having built a number of huts, and the large mortality had made room for others in the tents.

On the 19th of February the Steamer arrived from Port Louis with a fresh supply of provisions. Dr. Hardie was on board, and brought with him an order for the Indians to be removed to the opposite side of the Island during the landing of the stores. All but those quite incapable of walking went. Three deaths occurred on the road. They remained there from 10½ A. M. till late in the evening. They were exposed to the rays of the sun during the whole day, and the majority of them remained without food till their return to camp in the evening, as they

were too weak to carry their cooking utensils with them. The same night a violent storm occurred, and in the morning many of the Indians were found lying about on the wet grass, locked in each other's arms for warmth, the tents proving quite insufficient to keep out the rain. Serjeant Brown thinks that, with the means then at his disposal, efficient shelter could only have been provided for about 300 people in such weather as they were exposed to that night.

On the 23d of February an order came from the camp to be removed to the windward side of the Island. This was carried into execution the following day, and the whole camp burned.

VI. It was here that I found the Indians on my arrival, on the morning of the 26th of February. The ground on this side of the Island is low and swampy, and thickly strewn with large stones, which serve to keep the soil damp, while they at the same time render it a bad camping ground, from the difficulty in finding clear spaces on which to pitch tents or huts. The heat is very intense here until long past midday, the sun's rays being reflected from the surfaces of large rocks which rise in the centre of the Island, whilst at night a cold south-east wind, saturated with spray, is constantly blowing on to the shore.

The camp consisted of tarpaulins, stretched over poles, and of a few huts; it was sufficient, perhaps, to shelter them from the sun's rays by day, and partially from the cold winds at night, but must have proved utterly useless in stormy weather, such as occurred at a subsequent period.

The condition of the people was most pitiable; the majority seemed incapable of any kind of exertion, and dozens of them were suffering from every stage of disease. The sick, dying, and those comparatively healthy were mixed together, there being at that time no Hospital. They were lying for the most part on the bare damp earth. The number of souls alive on the Island at the date of my arrival must have been about 555. Out of these I could only find 90 men capable of any kind of labour.

I found, on landing, three wooden houses close to the landing place. One of these contained the stores, and the other two were appropriated to the Police. A master Carpenter and eight men were also constructing wooden huts for the Indians; three of these were completed, one being occupied by the carpenters themselves. A Hospital hut was also in course of construction, on a very eligible sight.

Two Police Serjeants and eleven Constables were on the Island when I landed; they were too few to perform the duties which the necessities of the case demanded. Six more arrived a few days after I arrived, but the greater number of these went to Flat Island to maintain the observance of the Quarantine there.

My first act after ascertaining the state of the immigrants was to urge on the completion of the Hospital, and organize a system for the proper treatment and dieting of the sick. My efforts were so far successful that, by the following day, I was able to remove all the more serious cases into the Hospital. I appointed a Policeman named Carle to act as Hospital Orderly, which situation he filled throughout the remainder of the Quarantine, and it was to his unremitting exertions in carrying out my directions that the cleanliness and good order which prevailed in the Hospital, almost from the commencement, are in great measure due.

It did not take long to satisfy me that a very large number of the Indians were beyond the reach of human aid, and that, unless prompt measures were taken, most, if not all, of the others would soon be in the same state, and to prevent this, better shelter was necessary for all of them, and a better description of diet for most of them. I therefore impressed on Mr. Mason, the master Carpenter, the

necessity of completing the huts with the utmost possible expedition, not even allowing his men to rest on Sunday. The result was that in a little more than a week all the Indians were well and comfortably housed. Immediately after my arrival, I had ordered the Police to give up one of their houses to the Indians. I was thus enabled at once to provide shelter for nearly sixty of the healthiest and most able bodied amongst them, on whom all the labor of the camp devolved, and who were thus in a manner isolated from the others. Throughout the remainder of the Quarantine this band continued comparatively free from disease.

Soup, rice, and sago were cooked daily at the Hospital, and distributed amongst the more weakly people, and I obtained a supply of salt fish from the Government for the general body of Indians. Before a fortnight had elapsed, so great an improvement had taken place in the appearance of the people generally, that I was induced to hope that my first impressions as to the extent and duration of the probable mortality had been too gloomy, but it was soon only too evident that, although the measures adopted had been instrumental in saving the lives of the majority of those I found alive on the Island at my arrival, yet, that in too many instances the only effect was to prolong life for a short period, the vital powers, seemingly, having been too much depressed to allow of their offering a successful resistance to the invidious attacks of disease.

I should state that, on removing to the new huts, clean clothing and mats to sleep on were issued to all the Indians. The larger number of huts were erected on a sandy ridge close to the beach, and, as there was thus a double fall, it was impossible for water to lodge in or about them. Unfortunately, the site chosen for the Hospital before my arrival was to windward of this, and, as I was fearful that the effluvium from it might infect the camp, I caused a new and very complete building to be erected on a small promontory well to leeward of the camp.

VII. As has before been stated, the improved shelter and more strict attention to cleanliness, both in the huts and persons of the Indians, soon created a marked change for the better to be perceptible in most of them. Still fresh cases of sickness continued to occur daily. Very seldom could I get the Indians to declare themselves ill at the first outset of disease; they in fact used every effort to hide it from me, and it was only by most careful and minute personal inspections that I could ascertain who were really sick among them.

Before my arrival the chief mortality had been caused by Cholera, 80 deaths having taken place from this disease out of a total mortality of 140. Subsequent to my arrival, only 3 cases of Cholera occurred, viz.:—2 on 27th February and 1 on 2d March. Dysentery, diarrhoea, and fever were the prevailing diseases throughout the period I was on the Island.

The most remarkable circumstance connected with the fever which prevailed amongst the Indians was the strong tendency to collapse which most of the patients manifested, and the absence of any organic complicating disease.

On making a post mortem examination of these cases I could discover no traces of organic disease, one or two cases only excepted, but the most thorough emaciation existed it ever fell to my lot to witness. Every particle of fatty tissue seemed to have been absorbed, the fact appearing to be that vitality had been so far depressed that the digestive organs had lost the power of digesting and assimilating the food supplied to them—the body literally preying on itself, and using up its own fat for the purpose of maintaining the animal temperature.

The influence of temperature on the production of disease, and also on the mortality was most marked. A fall of a few degrees always increased the number of new cases of disease; and patients who, at night, appeared to be doing tolerably well, in the morning were found dead, and this in spite of every precaution I could adopt.

Passive dropsy was also very prevalent, an invariable attendant on undue exposure to the weather and defective nutrition. There can be no question that the excessive mortality and its long continuance, and the long confinement to so limited a space of ground as Gabriel Island, had a very depressing influence on the

minds of the Indians, and most probably tended to render them more liable to succumb to disease.

APPENDIX TO REPORT.

A RETURN OF THE DAILY ADMISSIONS INTO HOSPITAL.

N. B.—I cannot vouch for the accuracy of this Return so far as it relates to the period preceding my arrival.

JANUARY.		FEBRUARY.		APRIL.	
16th	— 2	22d	— 9	1st	— 3
17th	— 26	23d	—	2d	— 1
18th	— 10	24th	— 4	3d	— 3
19th	— 18	25th	—	4th	— 2
20th	— 12	26th	—	5th	— 4
21st	— 13	27th	— 10	6th	— 1
22d	— 11	28th	— 2	7th	— 1
23d	— 14	29th	— 4	8th	— 7
24th	— 11	MARCH.		9th	— 1
25th	— 13	1st	— 5	10th	— 1
26th	— 13	2d	— 3	11th	— 2
27th	— 8	3d	— 5	12th	— ..
28th	— 7	4th	— 11	13th	— ..
29th	— 19	5th	— 5	14th	— 1
30th	— 10	6th	— 5	15th	— 5
31st	— 7	7th	— 6	16th	— 1
FEBRUARY.		8th	— 5	17th	— ..
1st	— 11	9th	— 6	18th	— 1
2d	— 19	10th	— 4	19th	— 1
3d	—	11th	— 4	20th	— 4
4th	— 7	12th	— 3	21st	— 1
5th	— 12	13th	— 1	22d	— 3
6th	— 16	14th	— 1	23d	— 1
7th	— 9	15th	— 4	24th	— 1
8th	— 34	16th	— 7	25th	— 1
9th	— 37	17th	— 4	26th	— ..
10th	— 51	18th	— 5	27th	— ..
11th	— 29	19th	— 1	28th	— 3
12th	— 24	20th	— 2	29th	— ..
13th	— 24	21th	— 8	30th	— ..
14th	— 18	22d	— 3	MAY	
15th	— 7	23d	— 1	1st	— ..
16th	— 4	24th	— 8	2d	— 2
17th	— 5	25th	— 2	3d	— 1
18th	— 37	26th	— 2		
19th	— 11	27th	— 4		
20th	— 5	28th	— 5		
21st	— 2	29th	— 9		
		30th	— 4		
		31st	— 3		

RETURN OF THE DAILY MORTALITY.

N. B.—This return is only approximative in so far as it relates to the period preceding my arrival. I believe the real mortality to have been twenty six less than the Returns for this period indicate.

JANUARY.		FEBRUARY.		MARCH.		MAY.	
16th —	2.....	22d —	5.....	30th —	1.....	5th —	..
17th —	.....	23d —	5.....	31st —	2.....	6th —	..
18th —	1.....	24th —	6.....	APRIL			
19th —	1.....	25th —	5.....	1st —	2		
20th —	3.....	26th —	7.....	2d —	1		
21st —	3.....	27th —	5.....	3d —	1		
22d —	6.....	28th —	6.....	4th —	1		
23d —	5.....	29th —	3.....	5th —	4		
24th —	3.....	MARCH		6th —	..		
25th —	1.....	1st —	5.....	7th —	2		
26th —	2.....	2d —	3.....	8th —	..		
27th —	11.....	3d —	2.....	9th —	..		
28th —	.....	4th —	1.....	10th —	1		
29th —	2.....	5th —	2.....	11th —	3		
30th —	2.....	6th —	2.....	12th —	..		
31st —	1.....	7th —	3.....	13th —	1		
FEBRUARY.		8th —	3.....	14th —	1		
1st —	.....	9th —	3.....	15th —	1		
2d —	1.....	10th —	4.....	16th —	..		
3d —	3.....	11th —	5.....	17th —	1		
4th —	9.....	12th —	5.....	18th —	2		
5th —	6.....	13th —	2.....	19th —	4		
6th —	5.....	14th —	1.....	20th —	1		
7th —	4.....	15th —	1.....	21st —	1		
8th —	4.....	16th —	2.....	22d —	2		
9th —	2.....	17th —	1.....	23d —	1		
10th —	4.....	18th —	1.....	24th —	2		
11th —	3.....	19th —	3.....	25th —	1		
12th —	7.....	20th —	3.....	26th —	..		
13th —	10.....	21st —	2.....	27th —	1		
14th —	12.....	22d —	.....	28th —	1		
15th —	.....	23d —	1.....	29th —	..		
16th —	6.....	24th —	1.....	30th —	1		
17th —	3.....	25th —	.....	MAY			
18th —	7.....	26th —	2.....	1st —	..		
19th —	10.....	27th —	3.....	2d —	2		
20th —	4.....	28th —	1.....	3d —	..		
21st —	4.....	29th —	3.....	4th —	3		

The total number of *cases* admitted into Hospital from February 26th to April 30th was 196 ; of these 35 were cases of relapse or of persons who had been in Hospital for other diseases before, so that the total number of *persons* actually treated in Hospital during the above period was 161. This is exclusive of a large number who suffered from minor ailments and who were treated as out patients.

Of these 161 persons,
 96 died,
 41 recovered,
 18 were still in Hospital,
 5 were convalescent.

161

Twelve of these 161 persons had had fever or dysentery on board the *Futlay Mombarrack*. I could not ascertain how many of the Indians of the *Hydere* who were admitted into Hospital during this period had suffered from disease on board ship,

ANALYSIS OF THE 196 ADMISSIONS.

		Died	Recovered	In Hospital.	
Cholera.....	3	3			
Dyssentery	63	30	28		5
Fever.....	72	32	37		3
Dropsy.....	26	8	8		10
Miscellaneous } diseases.... }	32	24	8		„
	196	97	81	18	
The number of souls embarked at Calcutta was.....					747
The deaths during the voyage were					55
There were landed at Gabriel Island					692
The deaths on Gabriel Island were					271
Births on Gabriel Island					3
Landed at Port Louis					424
Left on Gabriel Island					403
					31

Of the 271 deaths,
 83 were from Cholera
 90 Dyssentery
 58 Fever
 32 Miscellaneous diseases.

271

140 deaths occurred before my arrival
 131 „ after „

271

The average daily mortality was 2.46
 do before my arrival 3. 5
 do after „ 1.87

Suggestions for the formation of an efficient Quarantine Establishment on Flat and Gabriel Islands.

I am given to understand that the difficulty in effecting a landing on these Islands is now considered an insuperable objection to their being selected as a Quarantine Station, this being the case it would be superfluous were I to enter on any lengthened statement on this matter. I would only say that from information I obtained whilst at Gabriel Island and also from personal observation I was led to believe that a landing place easy of approach in all but the most stormy weather could be made by causing a serpentine cutting to be made from a small bay on the south side of the mountain on Flat Island.

Supposing this difficulty to have been thus overcome I am of opinion that Flat Island possesses all the requisites for the formation of an efficient Quarantine Station and that it would be very easy to organize a system by which the complete isolation of the sick and healthy Indians, as well as of those suffering from the various forms of contagious disease could be effected. An unlimited supply of fresh vegetables could be raised on the Island and there is abundant pasturage for goats and cattle. And if a certain number of convicts were kept there for the purpose of cultivating the land I am of opinion that with the exception of rice, bread, fuel &c., the station might be made almost self supporting.

I refrain from entering on any details for the reason above stated.

CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

Article I

Section 1
All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.
Section 2
The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.
No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and when elected shall have been seven Years a Citizen of the State in which he shall be chosen.
Representatives and electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.
Section 3
The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for a Term of six Years; and each Senator shall have the Qualifications requisite for Senators of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.
No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and when elected shall have been two Years a Citizen of the State in which he shall be chosen.
Section 4
The Times, Places and Manner of holding the Elections of Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of Elections.

Article II

Section 1

The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America.
He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and not be re-elected more than once.
He shall, before entering on his Office, take the following Oath or Affirmation: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."
Section 2
The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, and may grant Reprieves and Pardons for all Offences against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.
He may require the Opinion, in Writing, of the principal Officers of the executive Departments.
Section 3
He may, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur.
He may nominate and, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, may remove any Officer appointed by him, except those appointed by the Congress.
Section 4
The President shall be impeachable by the House of Representatives, and may be removed from Office by the Senate.

MOTION BY M^R SOUPER.

MOTION BY MR. SOUTHER.

I move that the Extracts, which I now lay on the Table, from the Reports on Epidemic Cholera drawn up by the Cholera Committee of the Royal College of Physicians of London, in the year 1854, be printed, and submitted to the Governor and Council of Government with the Report of this Committee, and the evidence taken before it, as shewing, that in the opinion of that learned Body, after the most searching investigation, and correspondence with the whole Medical Body, Members of that College, and others practising in every town and district of the United Kingdom,

“ Any exclusive theory of the mode of propagation of Cholera cannot be maintained.

“ That human intercourse is not, by any means, the sole cause of the introduction and dissemination of Cholera.

“ That Cholera is not contagious.

“ That the existence and spread of Cholera depends upon the state of the atmosphere.

“ That Cholera can be self created.”

And in further support of this view, I further move that the proceedings of the meeting of the medical profession, in this town, in the year 1819, to enquire into the nature of the disease, which then existed, and its proper mode of treatment, be reprinted with the report of this Committee, as the idea of the Cholera of that period having been of foreign introduction, is therein repudiated.

That there is some unknown agency or condition, necessary to the existence of Cholera—the nature of which has hitherto baffled the learned of Europe—but of the existence of which, there can be no doubt as no line of reasoning has hitherto been found which will account for *all* the phenomena of Cholera.

I further move that it be recorded as the opinion of this Committee, that the Cholera could not have been introduced in the year 1819 by Her Majesty's Ship *Topaze* seeing that the disease already existed on the 6th September 1819, (certified by the Medical Meeting alluded to) whilst the *Topaze* did not arrive until 29th October following, and had no such disease on board.

That whilst the *Sultany* is generally supposed to have brought the Cholera in the year 1854, arriving as she did on the 2nd April of that year, it is proved by the Registers of the Officer of Civil Status of this town of Port Louis, that from the 1st February of that year, a disease then called “Diarrhœa” existed, which carried off 10, 15 and 20 people per diem, in town and suburbs, whilst it appears by the Report of the Royal College of Physicians of London, referred to, that in England, before the existence of Cholera was suspected, many persons were supposed to have died of diarrhea, who, it was not doubted afterwards, had really died of Cholera; and, that, therefore it may fairly be presumed that Cholera, and not Diarrhea, was the cause of the deaths of the persons referred to.

I further move that it be recorded as the opinion of this Committee, and in agreement with the dictum of the Royal College of Physicians of London, referred to, (as regards Great Britain), that Cholera has been known to engender itself

in this Colony, as witness, its breaking out in the Prisons of Port Louis in the year 1854, when the 750 Vagrants were confined therein, the case of Assistant Commissary General Ackroyd and family, in the same year, four months after all Cholera had disappeared; and the case of the soldier at Flacq, in the year 1855, months before the general appearance of Cholera in that year, related before this Committee by Dr. Clerihew, Chief Medical Officer. Reference is also made to the case of the Mediterranean Squadron, in which Cholera appeared whilst at sea at a distance of several miles from any infected place, which shews either that Cholera engendered itself on board, or that it was brought on board by atmospheric currents.

I further move that, it be recorded as the opinion of this Committee, that the safety of the Island of Bourbon (hitherto at least) has been owing to its general salubrity and its elevated and airy territory (high mountains being supposed to be great conductors of electricity), rather than to the precautionary measures there taken. That it is to the foregoing circumstances rather than to the precautions of man, that its immunity from Cholera hitherto has been owing.

PHILIP D. SOUPER.

Documents in support of the foregoing motion.

Conditions favorable to the Spread of the Disease must be present.

Capriciousness of Cholera.

The information furnished by the Correspondents of the Cholera Committee, therefore, confirm the rule that the Epidemic rarely prevailed with any severity unless Conditions favorable to the development and spread of Epidemic disease were obviously present; but, likewise, seems to them, again by the examples of Reading and Stafford, that Cholera did not fall severely upon all places presenting such conditions.

Pathology of Cholera.

Page 117 of Report on the morbid anatomy and Pathology of Cholera: (which follows the appendix to Baly Sully Work.)

Cholera how produced not known.

The first unequivocal Symptoms of Cholera indicate that the Gastro-Intestinal mucous membrane, with its Ganglionic nervous Centres, is the focus of the morbid action.

Predisposition not necessary.

Whether there be a primary absorption of Poison into the blood or not, is not at present known; tho' our knowledge of the laws by which many deleterious agents produce their effects renders the former hypothesis, highly probable. But, *in our Ignorance of the substantial cause of the Disease*, and of the Channels thro' which it reaches the Body, whether thro' the Skin, Pulmonary membrane or Intestinal tract. We must expect that different views will be entertained by different observers, according to their *speculative* ideas on the nature of Disease in general, or the Theory they may have formed of the Cholera poison. *

Substantial cause of Cholera not known.

Predisposition not necessary.

Page 145. Whatever may be the nature of the Cholera poison, *it requires no Definite predisposing Conditions* in the system, to enable it to produce its effects: It was fatal at all ages, nearly equally to both sexes, and neither the weakness of Infancy, the vigour of manhood, nor the decrepitude of age, was a safeguard against its Inroads.

Cholera. No. of deaths in England in 1849.

The total number of deaths in England from Cholera and Diarrhœa together in 1849, (not including 20 Persons over 95 years of age,) was 72,110.

* The word "poison" is used to avoid the tediousness of Paraphrase; but intended as more than a general reference to the Cause (of Cholera,) without any Theory of the nature of the Poison.

Human inter-
course.

P. 43.

Resemblance
of Asiatic to
English Cholera.

The Theory that Cholera is propagated and diffused by means of human intercourse receives no support from the facts relating to variations in the intensity of Cholera epidemics, to the circumstances determining those variations. These facts tend, in the contrary, to establish the close *resemblance* borne by Asiatic Cholera, to the common Summer Cholera and Diarrhea of this Country and Remittant Fever, which there are such good grounds for believing to be purely of malicious origin.

Human Inter-
course.

P. 109.

It would, *à priori*, be most probable that a poisonous matter which increases in foul air would be at least as capable of dissemination through a limited area by means of atmospheric currents, as, by the vehicle of luggage or clothes of men. And the following facts frequently referred to before, afford grounds for *doubting* whether the conveyance of the disease from town to town is always, or, even generally, effected by human intercourse.

During the winter of 1848—49, towns of large population, such as Leeds, where local conditions of unhealthiness abound, and where the traffic with places already affected with Cholera was very active, *nevertheless escaped infection*. And in the subsequent summer, the appearance of the disease in the crowded towns and mining districts of Worcestershire and Staffordshire, was long delayed, while it had very rapidly spread thro' other districts of the country.

Human Inter-
course.

P. 156.

The conditions on land most resembling those favoring the transference of Cholera over seas are afforded by bodies of troops with their baggage, or caravans of traders, or pilgrims, journeying from an infected place to others not yet visited by the disease.

And the evidence that under those circumstances the disease will sometimes continue with a body of men for several hundred miles is apparently incontrovertible. That whether under these circumstances the infection has been communicated to the Inhabitants of the places traversed, or, to other bodies of troops not before infected, *is still disputed*, tho' the weight of authority is in favor of the *occasional* communication of the disease in such cases.

Human Inter-
course.

P. 161.

The outbreak of Cholera in Public Establishments such as Prisons, Lunatic Asylum and Work-Houses, especially the two first, where no known cause of infection had been introduced from without, is a more important fact. For here, the intercourse with the Surrounding Population is limited, and the introduction of infection from without, both, less likely to occur, and more easily traced if it did happen. Including the Lunatic Asylum, respecting which information was elicited by the Commissioners of Lunacy there are nineteen Public Establishments in which the outbreak of disease could not be traced to infection brought in by human means. And altho in some of these Cases possible, or even probable, sources of infection may have been overlooked, yet it can scarcely be credited that this was the Case in every instance. If the Disease were always introduced by infected persons, clothes, or other similar means, it would surely not have happened that the Cause of outbreak remained undetected in all, but one of the sixteen Lunatic Asylum, and in four out of the seven Prisons or Huts which suffered from the Epidemic.

While then the evidence supports the belief, that in many Cases the origin of the Disease has been attributable to the introduction of infection by human agency, it also seems to shew that in many others no such Cause could be traced, or probably existed.

Human Inter-
course.
P. 165.

With respect to the origin of the Disease in the towns of Ireland, it is stated by the Commissioners of Health, in their Report, that having addressed to the several Medical Officers throughout the Country, the inquiry "whether the first patients had been long resident, or had likely come from some place where Cholera prevails, or had had communication with persons in that Disease; also whether the second Case had access to the first one, 37 replies were received, which may be thus classed—8, doubtful, 6 in support of the view of the first attack in the locality owing its origin to contagion, and 23 stating that the attack would not be traced to importation or contagion."

The information published respecting the mode of diffusion of the Epidemic in the United States supports more strongly the belief that human intercourse is a principal means by which it is effected, but at the same time, leaves it probable that the Poison may be transferred from place to place by *some other agency*.

Cholera.
Its propagation
not by Human
Intercourse done.

Page 190 of the Report itself. "Human Intercourse however is certainly, only one cause of the Propagation of the Disease. The general features of the Epidemic of 1849, and special facts also—have afforded satisfactory evidence that some other agent is engaged in its diffusion: the probability that this other agent is the wind has already been inferred; but it has not yet been supported by direct evidence; it is indeed difficult to offer any.

At Page 194. Dr. Myson remarks that Cholera appeared in several Ships of the Mediterranean Squadron before they had any communication with the shore, and were still at the distance of several miles from an Infected Locality.

Mediterranean Fleet.

In some Cases
the spread of the
Disease could not
be attributed to
Human Inter-
course.

Page 193.

Lastly in the case of Millbank Prison it was thought, during the prevalence of the Epidemic in London, that there was a connexion between the direction of the wind, and the renewed outbreaks of the disease, in the Prison: Cholera certainly reappeared in the Prison, most frequently, when the wind was blowing from the East, and consequently over the Southern Districts of London, where the Epidemic was then fiercely raging.

All Such observations as relating to places on shore, as long as they are few in number, are open to the objection that the coincidence of the outbreak with the particular direction of the wind, may have been accidental. At present they are very few: and the belief that the Cholera Poison is wafted from place to place by the wind, rests almost entirely on the ground of inference; altho' it is an inference scarcely admitting of question, if the theory which regards the cause of Cholera as a poisonous matter, existing and increasing in the air, but not diffused through it, in the manner of Gas, is the correct one: for it has been shown that in a large number of instances the appearance of the Disease in a town, and the mode of its first extension through it, as well as the origin of the disease in many public Institutions CANNOT BE EXPLAINED BY HUMAN INTERCOURSE; and *human intercourse being excluded, no adequate means for the dissemination of such a poison remains except atmospheric currents*. If too, that the Theory be correct, other observations not yet noticed may be regarded as proofs that the poison of Cholera is conveyed by the wind; such for example, as those on which Dr. Bryson founds his remark, that Cholera appeared in several ships of the *Mediterranean Squadron* before they had any communication with the shore, and were still at the distance of several miles from an infected Locality.

Bad water not
sufficient, nor
Human Inter-
course.
P. 212.

The dissemination of Cholera thro' the country receives no elucidation from this theory (bad water). At all events the extension of the disease from town to town cannot be due to the contamination of the water of rivers by the discharges of the sick, in as much as the Epidemic, in most instances, ascended rivers instead of following the course of the water downwards: and *human intercourse having been found incapable of explaining ALL the*

facts, the aid of atmospheric currents has seemed necessary to effect the diffusion of the poison.

Human inter-
course.
P. 219—220. In the cases where Human Intercourse *cannot* have been the means of diffusing Cholera the agent most likely to have conveyed the poison from one spot to another, *is the wind*. The poison of Cholera being so dependent on the state of air for its existence, increase and power of action, *and having the capability of passing from place to place*, must, it would seem, not only be exposed to the air, but even tho' it be in part attached to the surfaces of bodies, must, in part also, float in the air.

.....

That the proportion of instances in which the introduction of the Epidemic into towns, parts of towns, and individual houses, or public establishments, has been due to the one or the other mode of diffusion, (*viz.*: Human Intercourse and the Air), cannot at present be determined.

Human Inter-
course.
P. 231. The propriety of adopting measures founded on the belief that human intercourse aids in the dissemination of Cholera has been urged upon *those who may still* DOUBT the propagation of the disease in that way.

Human inter-
course.
P. 224. From among the great features of a Cholera Epidemic three stand forth as of paramount importance; one, the undoubted influence of locality, and of the sanitary condition of towns and dwellings, on the degree of severity with which the Epidemic visits them; a second, the equally certain influence of season and temperature, together with some unknown condition of the atmosphere in the general prevalence, and rate of extension of the Epidemic; and a third, the share taken by human intercourse in determining not only the progress of the Epidemic, and the direction of its advance across a continent, but also its extension from continent to continent, and most probably its communication from one town to another in the same country, and from one locality to another in the same town.

This third great feature of the disease, is less generally admitted than the two others; but the question here is not whether the evidence is so complete as to compel belief, but, simply, whether it amounts to so great a degree of probability that it cannot wisely be neglected in the consideration of the measures to be taken for the prevention, arrest or mitigation of a distinctive pestilence.

.....

P. 231. The propriety of adopting measures founded on the belief that human intercourse aids in the dissemination of Cholera, has been urged upon those who may still doubt the propagation of the disease in that way.

Contagion.

Contagion.
P. 44. Cholera then differs from the contagious diseases of this country in being far more under the influence of temperature and other conditions of the atmosphere, and if its cause be *really* a contagious virus, reproduced and multiplied in the bodies of the sick, and emanating from them, certain conditions of the air must be necessary for its continual existence out of the body, or must greatly affect its power of propagating the disease from one person to others; or, (a still more improbable supposition,) must render persons proof against *this* disease, and this disease *only*.

The probability, however, founded on analogy, is very much *against* the increase and spreading of Cholera being due to contagion, and in addition to the facts already mentioned, on which this inference from analogy is based, the case of continued fever may be added in support of it.

Contagion. An additional reason for believing that the diffusion of Cholera through a town is independent of contagion, is furnished by the extraordinary rapidity of its increase in some cases. To take one example of this from many that might be referred to:—The epidemic of 1832 in Paris commenced on the 26th of March, and increased so rapidly that in 18 days it had reached its climax, had already extended to all the quarters of Paris, and had been fatal to 7,000 people.

It is scarcely possible to believe that this was the effect of contagion.

Cholera not Contagious. The bedding and linen used by Cholera patients in Hospitals has therefore, at least very frequently, exerted no infectious power on those who washed them; and the communication of the disease by clothes and linen, which has seemed well established in other cases, must have been due to *special circumstances*.

Page 182. In the first place, the important testimony of Dr. Pearch relative to the effects of nursing the infected children brought from Cholera not generally infectious. the school at Tooting to the Royal Free Hospital, must be, once more, referred to. From 20 to 25 persons, who had not been at Tooting, had free intercourse with the children during the first fortnight; about 14 nurses and 5 male attendants sleeping in the wards with them every night. Twelve of these attendants were attacked with severe diarrhœa; four passed into the state of Cholera, and two died. All the other attendants suffered, in a less degree, from diarrhœa. At the same time there were 50 or 60 persons in another part of the building, none of whom suffered from any similar form of infection.

The facts observed at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and fully detailed by Dr. Bunrus, likewise corroborate the belief that the attendants on the sick are more liable to take the disease than persons otherwise employed, although they likewise show that the collecting the patients in special wards is not necessarily attended with any considerable danger.

One of the ordinary nurses of the Cholera wards was seized with the disease and died, and two head nurses, or Sisters of the Cholera wards, had severe diarrhœa, while the nurses and Sisters of other wards, about tenfold more numerous, were not infected in the same way.

Only one of the patients admitted for other diseases died of Cholera, and this one was a woman who, having poisoned herself with oxalic acid, had been placed by mistake in the Cholera Department, and remained there for two or three days; was then removed to another part of the Hospital, and shortly afterwards died there, with symptoms of Cholera.

Here, then, in all probability two deaths, and almost certainly one, must be referred to communication with the sick; but when it is remembered that, during the epidemic, 478 cases of confirmed Cholera were received into the Hospital, 198 of which proved fatal, and that all these patients were treated in one comparatively small wing of the building, it must be admitted that no great power of infection was here manifested.

As to Contagion. The question whether contagion is an occasional cause of the propagation of the disease is therefore left in doubt.

P. 190.

.....

Human intercourse, however, is certainly only one cause of the propagation of the disease. The general features of the epidemic of 1849, and special facts also, have afforded satisfactory evidence that *some other agent* is engaged in its diffusion. The probability that this other agent is the wind has already been inferred.

Page 222. With reference to two other arguments, which, if established, Evidence as to would only prove that Cholera is, in some cases, contagious, the evidence examined has been found contradictory. The frequent

Contagion contradictory. communication of the disease by the *ashes* or *bedding* of the sick, to the persons who handle or wash them, under circumstances rendering other sources of infection than emanations received from the bodies of the sick improbable, appear to be by no means proved. The preponderance of evidence is, in fact, opposed to its occurrence. On the other hand, the evidence respecting the especial liability of nurses and others, attending on the sick, to suffer from Cholera, although conflicting, is, in some instances, of such a character as to preclude the absolute reception of the view that the disease has a contagious property, even though it does not usually spread by virtue of contagion.

Impurity of the atmosphere the cause of Cholera. P. 92. This instance indeed, affords stronger evidence than the former one, for, while different views might be entertained, as to the manner in which the disease is brought, early, or late, to a tract of country, there seems no plausible mode of accounting for the early climax of the disorder over a particular region except by ascribing it to an early intensity of the same general conditions on which the climax *every where depends*, and, that condition has been seen to be, *almost certainly, an increased impurity of the atmosphere.*

Impure Atmosphere. P. 95. When further with this fact, is coupled the successive mode of attack of the individual Localities, Houses, Groups of Houses, and Public Establishments, within each sub-district, the further inference suggests itself, that the *impure atmosphere of a District* determines the occurrence of numerous outbreaks within its area, by rapidly communicating the disease from one Locality to another.

Cholera conveyed by an Impure atmosphere. P. 95. Other modes of explaining the fact might perhaps be found; but the idea that the generally impure state of the air produced by the influences determining the climax causes a large number of places to be affected at nearly the same time, by conveying the disease, or permitting it to be conveyed, from one locality to another, affords, at all events *a sufficient solution of the problem*, and a solution of it, which is in *accordance with other features of the Epidemic.*

Cholera transmitted by the atmosphere. P. 97. Of the numerous places attacked in healthy and comparatively elevated parts of Middlesex, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, and Kent, many would most probably have escaped, had it not been for their proximity to the already existing *foci* of the disease, formed by London and other places near the Thames. It can scarcely be doubted that the disease was transmitted to many of them more or less directly from these centres, and all the facts relating to the Epidemic hitherto examined, tend to the conclusion that its transmission was, in some way or other, facilitated, if not effected, by the atmosphere.

Cholera conveyed by the air. P. 102. Again, the climax of the Epidemic was more nearly simultaneous in the different localities visited by it, at the season and in the area most remarkable for impurity of the atmosphere, and this fact which was exemplified by the case of the registration districts of London, seemed, itself, to suggest the inference, that *impure air* was the medium through which the disease, or its *cause*, was communicated from one spot to another. But it is rendered much more intelligible by the theory of a morbid matter diffused by currents of air.

Cholera poison carried to a distance more rapidly by the wind than by ships. P. 155. It does not necessarily follow that the first introduction of the epidemic into these (the British) Islands in any one of its visitations, has been due to shipping, for, it is possible that the poisonous miasm may have been conveyed by currents of air more quickly than by ships through the distance that separates Ireland from England, or even England from the North of Germany.

Cholera in the Air. P. 169. But this last objection is, at once, seen to be groundless, when the *paramount influence* of the condition of the atmosphere over the spread of Cholera is considered. Unless an impure state of air, or, at any rate, local conditions capable of producing it, exist, *the disease does not exist.*

Cholera conveyed by the Wind. P. 192. At Sunderland the same specific observation was made by Dr. Brown, that the house in which the first case on shore occurred, was situate at some distance, nearly a mile, from where the infected ships lay, but exactly in the direction in which the prevailing Easterly winds would convey any effluvia from the vessels, without interjacent obstacles to its reaching the town.

Again, in a letter quoted by the Commissioners of Health in Ireland, Dr. Biggs says:—"On Saturday last, the 7th instant, a strong wind set in from the North-east, of a keenly piercing nature. This wind blew in a direct line to Armagh from Belfast, where Cholera is now prevalent, and, on that evening, a girl, aged 12 years, when in the Female School of the Workhouse, was suddenly attacked with malignant Cholera, which proved fatal in 14 hours. This girl was an inmate of the house for nearly two months, and had had *no communication whatever with any infected person or place.*

"I may mention that at about the same time a man was suddenly attacked with this disease, about a quarter of a mile from the Workhouse, on the Belfast road, and has since died. On Sunday evening five persons were suddenly seized with Cholera in the Workhouse."

Cholera in the Air. P. 195. All the statistical and several facts examined were found eminently consistent with the view that *the agent PRODUCING the disease is a matter which exists*, and increases exclusively in the air, or on surfaces exposed to that medium.

Difficult to account for the cessation of the disease. P. 28. That the facility with which these theories explain the continuance of the epidemic, itself almost suggests an exception to them, namely—the objection that they would not account for its ultimate cessation.

When the Air is pure, Cholera can only exist feebly. P. 87. The inference suggested by these facts alone was that the cause of Cholera finds the conditions for its increase, or for its action, in impure and damp air, and either cannot exist, or can exert its morbid power but feebly when the air is pure.

Cholera Poison. P. 24. It may further be inferred, from the foregoing facts, that if the cause of Cholera be a material poison, it was, most probably, not in a gaseous form, since a gas soon becomes diffused through the air and dissipated, while the cause of Cholera remains many days, producing its effects in one limited spot—even in a part of one building. It must, on that assumption, be supposed rather to have the form of muriatic acid or liquid particles, which may become fixed by attaching themselves to the surfaces of other bodies.

Cholera Poison. P. 102. The long delayed appearance of the disease in towns or smaller localities, such as parts of towns, which, from their natural site, sanitary conditions and nearness to a focus of the disease, would have been expected to receive it, *through the medium of the atmosphere*, at an earlier period, is in entire agreement with a character which has already been assigned to the *supposed Cholera poison*, namely, that it has the properties, not of a gaseous substance, but of a matter in the form of solid or liquid particles. Such a poison being distributed only partially through the air, and carried hither and thither by the atmospheric currents, might, for a long time, fail to reach a spot which was in itself even well fitted to afford it the means of increase.

Cholera Poison
and
Doctors Differ.
P. 102. 103.

Lastly the fact that around or in the neighbourhood of the more considerable foci of the Epidemic, slighter outbreaks occurred in places, which, from natural site, or sanitary condition had, apparently, no special fitness, as it were, inviting the attack—is consonant with the idea of a *morbific Poison*, which, while it undergoes increase in certain foci, is capable of being scattered around them by means of *atmospheric currents*. The two other principal theories are consistent with several of the facts relative to the dissimulation of the Epidemic ; but, neither of them affords an Explanation of *all* the facts ; without the aid of assumptions which are opposed to other well established features of the Epidemic, or, are, in themselves, far fetched, and improbable.

Page 72 of the
Report itself.

In towns not situated on the coast, or on large rivers, and in the several quarters of towns, Cholera generally appears first, in some low spot where there are damp and filth around the houses, with poverty, dirt, often crowding of the inhabitants, and almost always defective ventilation ; or in some public establishment, such as a Prison, a Lunatic Asylum, or a Workhouse, in which a large number of persons are congregated together.

Cholera self-
created.

At Page 87 of
the Report itself.

“The inference suggested by these facts alone was that the cause of Cholera finds the conditions for its increase, or for its action, in impure and damp air, and either cannot exist, or can exert its morbid power but *feebly* when the air is pure.

Sporadic Cholera as distinguished from epidemic Cholera.
P. 7 8 9.

And, with regard to these single deaths, it must be borne in mind that some of them must have been due to the common sporadic Cholera, not to epidemic disease ; for deaths from sporadic Cholera occur every year in all parts of the country, and, in the returns made to the Registrar General, from which the data for these facts are derived, *the deaths caused by it are not, and could not, with any accuracy, be distinguished from those due to the superadded epidemic.*

THE SIX THEORIES.

Pages 4 & 5.

The varieties of opinion as to the remote cause of Asiatic Cholera, and the cause of its spreading, are very numerous.

The six theories.

The first theory is that the disease spreads by an “atmospheric influence or epidemic constitution,” its progress consisting of a succession of local outbreaks, and that the particular localities affected are determined by certain localizing conditions,” which are, first, all those well known circumstances which render places insalubrious ; and second, a susceptibility of the disease in the inhabitants of such places, produced by the habitual respiration of an impure atmosphere.

The second theory, following the analogy of diseases known to be due to morbid poisons, regards the cause of Cholera as a morbid matter, which undergoes increase only within the human body, and is propagated by means of emanations from the bodies of the sick ; in other words, by contagion.

The third theory—that propounded by Dr. Snow—gives a more specific form to the doctrine of contagion. It supposes that the poison of Cholera is swallowed, and acts directly on the mucous membrane of the intestines ; is, at the same time, reproduced in the intestinal canal, and passes out much increased with the discharges ; and that these discharges, afterwards, in various ways, but chiefly by

becoming mixed with the drinking water in rivers or wells, wash the alimentary canals of other persons, and produce the like disease in them.

The fourth theory also assumes that the cause of Cholera is a morbid matter or poison, but supposes that it is reproduced only in the air, not within the bodies of those whom it affects, and that its diffusion is due to the agency of the atmosphere.

The fifth theory is a modification of the fourth. It admits that the Cholera matter is increased by a species of fermentation, or other mode of reproduction, in impure, damp, and stagnant air, but maintains that it, nevertheless, is distributed and diffused by means of human intercourse—it being carried in ships and other vehicles, and even in the clothes of men, especially in the foul clothes of vagrants, and the accumulated baggage of armies.

The sixth theory combines the second and fourth, assuming that the material causes of the disease may be increased and propagated in and by impure air, as well as in and by the human body.

Such are the theories. The object of this Report is to enquire into the facts, and to learn which of these theories is most in accordance with them.

From "Reports on Epidemic Cholera, drawn up at the desire of the Cholera Committee of the Royal College of Physicians,

BY

WILLIAM BALY, M. D.,

AND

WILLIAM W. GULL, M. D.,

Members of the Committee,

1854.

Page 223. Of the six theories then mentioned, at pages 4 and 5 of this
The theory Report, (Report of the Royal College of Physicians, London,) that alone is supported which regards the cause of Cholera as a
adopted. matter increasing by some process, whether chemical or organic, in impure or damp air, and assumes that, although of course diffused with the air, it is also distributed and diffused by means of human intercourse.

Cholera not yet Moreover, no simple theory that has yet been proposed will account for *all* the facts in the history of epidemics of Cholera.
P. 48.

Cholera self- In England, Cholera having ceased in the year 1832, re-appeared in the Summer of the following year, and again in the Summer of 1834; that subsequently it was not epidemic in this country until October, 1848, though *two completely isolated outbreaks* of a disease not distinguishable from the epidemic Cholera occurred in the years 1837 and 1838. The former outbreak was in the Dreadnought
P. 48, 49.

Hospital at Greenwich, when 20 patients were attacked, and 12 died, between the 8th and the 28th of October, *no similar cases occurring in other ships in the river, or on shore.*

The outbreak in the year 1838 was in the House of Industry at Coventry, and there 55 of the inmates perished between the 7th January and the 2d February, *while all other parts of the town remained free from the disease.*

The cessation of the epidemic cannot be referred to any *known* external agency. It usually occurs in the cold season, but, although cold certainly exerts a suppressing influence, it is, as certainly, inadequate of itself to eradicate the disease, for the epidemic has often survived a severe Winter in colder climates than that of England. Some other cause must then at least concur with the influence of cold in bringing about this result.

Not known what produces Cholera, nor what stops it.
P. 49.

Moreover, there are reasons for believing that the cessation of the disease in a town is *not* owing to all persons susceptible of it having already been exposed to its cause, and affected by it. In the first place, the disease may cease in a town or a large public institution, and then, after a short interval, be renewed—as many persons suffering from it in this renewed outbreak as in the former one. An example of this kind is met with in the case of Sunderland, where a slight attack, between the months of October, 1848, and January, 1849, was succeeded, after more than a month's complete interval, by a second attack of far greater severity; this again being followed, after two months interval, by a third outbreak of a still more serious character. It is not likely that in this instance the disease ceased in the two earlier outbreaks, because all the persons still susceptible of the disease, through some strange concurrence of circumstances, failed to be exposed to the contagious influence.

Previous susceptibility of individuals.
Contagious diseases in England never extinct.
P. 50, 51.

In the second place, the supposition that Cholera, if contagious, must, after a time, cease throughout the country, or, at any rate, throughout a large city, from the absence of any more persons susceptible of the poisonous influence, is contrary to past experience respecting the best known contagious diseases, which seem, *at no time, to become entirely extinct even in London, and still less throughout England.*

Cholera sometimes mistaken for simple Diarrhœa.
P. 55, 56, 60.

There is a third series of facts also tending to the conclusion that epidemic Cholera extended throughout the country in the course of the Winter of 1848-49. It is *certain* that during the whole period of the epidemic many deaths, especially of children, due to the same cause, though often not presenting all the ordinary features of Cholera, were registered as deaths from diarrhœa.

.....

The statistics of the mortality ascribed to diarrhœa tend, therefore, to strengthen the belief that epidemic Cholera had existed generally over England and Wales during the first four months of 1849, and that its effects merely differed *in degree* in different parts, but were not really absent over any considerable portion of the country.

Cleanliness and fresh air preventatives.
P. 18, 19

Instances of this kind, which are found to be very numerous, when the relation between the mortality from Cholera and the elevation of the surface is examined, in the cases of the sub-districts of the metropolis, go far to prove that, even in London, the connection between lowness of level and the prevalence of Cholera depends, at least in great part, on the character of the inhabitants and their dwellings in the lower districts, and on the foulness, as distinguished from mere dampness, of the atmosphere, in these localities.

The communications received by the Cholera Committee describe the sanitary

condition of the chief seats of Cholera in 68 towns, districts, or institutions. The testimony here afforded to the College is complete and convincing as to the very general association of Cholera, where it is rife, with overcrowding and deficient ventilation, imperfect drainage, want of cleanliness, and the effluvia from rivers, cesspools, foul drains, &c.

Cholera Poison
not a gas.

Page 218.

"It may further be inferred, from the very local and persistent character of the outbreaks of Cholera, that its cause is not a gaseous, diffusible substance, but rather matter in the form of solid or liquid particles, capable of attaching themselves to surfaces of other bodies.

The results arrived at with reference to the means by which this Cholera poison is conveyed from place to place have next to be noticed.

Cholera diffused
by Human Inter-
course.

A large body of evidence renders it certain that human intercourse has at least a *share* in the propagation of the disease, and that it, *under some circumstances*, is the most important, if not the sole means of effecting its diffusion.

Any exclusive
theory of mode
of propagation of
Cholera cannot
be maintained.

Pages 3 & 4.

In both these circular letters, (to Hospital Physicians throughout England, and to Members of the College generally,) the Committee asked especially for facts, but they have, of course, elicited also the expression of opinions; and it is worthy of remark that these opinions, *amidst all their variety*, evince *very decidedly* the feeling of the profession *that an exclusive theory of the mode of propagation or diffusion of Cholera CANNOT BE MAINTAINED.*

Three modes of
disseminating Cho-
lera.
"Unknown agen-
cy."

P. 222, 223.

From among the great features of a Cholera epidemic, three stand forth, as of paramount importance, one—the undoubted influence of locality, and of the sanitary condition of towns and dwellings in the degree of severity with which the epidemic visits them. A second—the *equally certain* influence of season and temperature, together with the UNKNOWN CONDITION of the atmosphere, in the prevalence, and rate of extension of the epidemic; and a third—the share taken by human intercourse in it. This third great feature of the disease is *less generally admitted than the two others.*

Opposing princi-
ples.
P. 29.

While, therefore, the more complete prevalence of Cholera in an intense degree, in the later months of Summer and the beginning of Autumn, taken in conjunction with the known fact that the disease is so much more fatal in hot than in cold climates, would suggest the probability that temperature has a large share in regulating the severity of the epidemic. Other facts tend apparently to an opposite conclusion, and further examination of the matter is here evidently needed to determine the connection really subsisting between the epidemic and temperature.

Capriciousness
of Cholera.
Unknown con-
ditions.

P. 23, 24.

Mr. Simon, in his "Second Annual Report on the Sanitary Condition of the City of London," makes a general statement to the same effect. "It is unquestionably true," he says, "that many habitual seats of fever were visited by Cholera; on the other hand, many of the worse fever nests in the whole metropolis were unaffected by it." And the late Dr. Taylor, in his "History of Epidemic Cholera in Huddersfield," observes that "one of the most remarkable singularities of the epidemic is this, that, after attacking one, two, or three persons in a bad locality, it will cease there. Again, it will altogether pass by other neighbouring spots as bad or worse than the one visited. One house will be infested, whilst others, much nearer to the nuisance supposed to be concerned in the production of the disease, will escape."

The foregoing facts have an important bearing on the theories of the epidemic, which may here be briefly noticed. The marked preference of Cholera for low, unhealthy sites, and crowded, dirty dwellings, suggests at once the inference that the morbid cause, *whatever its nature*, finds the conditions for its increase, or for its action, at least in part, in the impure atmosphere of such places. But, in the application of that theory of epidemic Cholera which attributes it to a "general state of the atmosphere," or "atmospheric influence," brought into action by "localizing causes," a difficulty is already met with. Such a cause would be expected to produce its effects wherever the "localizing conditions" exist; yet it has been seen that very many place, some towns, and many smaller places and parts of towns, having these conditions, suffered but slightly, or wholly escaped. And it is obvious that no supposed *want of susceptibility* of the disease in the *individual inhabitants* will explain the absence of the epidemic under such circumstances, from entire towns and districts, or indeed from entire groups of the houses of the poor. If, therefore, the cause be one generally present through the atmosphere, there must be some *other* condition essential for its action *besides the known conditions* of insalubrity, and this *unknown condition* must, in some instances, have been absent throughout entire towns; in others, only in limited spots.

Unknown causes of Cholera. P. 39. It does not appear easy to explain, for example, the outbreaks in the villages of Rubham and Mileham, in Norfolk, in the Winters of 1848-49. It would seem, therefore, that in these and similar instances, *some other cause* must have been at work, either increasing the effect of the local conditions, or, *perhaps*, acting in *some* totally different manner.

In the cases, too, where the local conditions, which generally form the increase of Cholera, were abundant, it is difficult to explain why the epidemic, which had been severe during the cold season, should have afterwards quickly declined, unless under the influence of *some other agency* than those hitherto considered.

Stronger reasons will presently be adduced for believing that *some unknown cause* exerts an important influence over the degree of prevalence of Cholera; but, before proceeding to the consideration of them, it is well to remark that, although the existence of this *unknown influence must be assumed*, the importance of the obvious conditions of unhealthiness ought not to be overlooked.

OZONE.

Unknown agency. "Ozone." P. 41. The conclusion seems inevitable that, in these and other similar instances, the great and more or less continued decrease in the force of the epidemic, has been due to *some other agency* than the ordinary meteorological conditions; and, at present, the *nature of this agency is unknown*. It may act by directly destroying or removing the cause of the disease itself; but, inasmuch as the local conditions of unhealthiness have power to determine the spots where Cholera shall be most destructive of life, and since the tendency of all these conditions is to render the atmosphere impure, while the variations of the intensity of the epidemic in any place are, moreover, as a general rule, dependent on influences which must produce corresponding variations in the degree of the impurity of the air, it is not unreasonable to imagine that the unknown agency in question produces its effects by destroying the atmospheric impurities, and the extraordinary prevalence of the disease in some instances, in the cold season, may be supposed to arise, in part, from this agent not being present in its normal amount. *Ozone*, which has been shown by Professor Schonbein to exist in the atmosphere in varying quantities, has the power of destroying the impurities resulting from the decomposition of organic matter, and has, so far, the requisite attributes of this *unknown agent*; but the agent which checks, in so mysterious a way, the destructive work of Cholera, can scarcely have so general an action in all impurities of an organic origin as *ozone* seems to have; for, if that were the case, all diseases which are fostered by an impure air ought to be more or less repressed by it, at the same time with Cholera.

Unknown agency. That as the conditions which determine the spots in which Cholera causes the chief mortality, all tend to produce an impure state of the air, and, as a high external temperature and absence of wind tend to increase the impurity of the air of such spots, it is probable that the varying degrees of the impurity of the air are, at best, one cause of the varying intensity of the epidemic in any given place.

P. 42.

That, on the other hand, no known influence, effecting alterations in the degree of purity or impurity of the air will explain the exceptional cases above referred to, especially the occasional rapid subsidence of the epidemic while the temperature is high, and it is therefore *necessary to admit the agency of an unknown cause*, capable of producing even more remarkable variations in the intensity of the epidemic than those caused by fluctuations of temperature.

Unknown agency. and the further inference was drawn that great variations in the intensity of an epidemic, not explicable in this manner, or by temporary local causes of impure air, were due to some *unknown agency or agencies in the atmosphere*, either affecting the degree of its purity; or acting more directly on the cause of the disease.

P. 87.

Unknown agency. From these facts it seemed reasonable to conclude that the rise of an epidemic of Cholera to a climax during the Summer season was due to the increased *impurity of the air, occasioned by the meteorological conditions* above referred to, and its subsequent decline to the diminished *impurity of the air, under opposite meteorological conditions*; and the further inference was drawn that great variations in the intensity of an epidemic, not explicable in this manner, or by temporary local causes of impure air, were due to some *unknown agency or agencies in the atmosphere*.

P. 87.

Unknown condition of the atmosphere. But there occur very remarkable variations in the intensity of the epidemic, not referable to temperature, which show that some *unknown conditions of the atmosphere*, though not the cause of Cholera, exert a paramount influence over it, either by acting directly on the material cause of the disease, or by affecting other matters in the air which enable it to exist or increase.

P. 218.

(Cholera in Lunatic Asylums in England.)

Capriciousness of Cholera. In several instances it was confined, for a time, to the patients of one sex, and ceased among them before it attacked those of the other sex, who of course were confined in a different part of the building.

79, 80.

Lastly, in Millbank Prison, the same character of the epidemic was, to a certain extent, apparent.

.....

During the Winter of 1848-49 the men alone suffered.

.....

But in August and September, while only four deaths occurred amongst the men, who were still three-fold the more numerous class, seven deaths occurred among the women.

Capriciousness of Cholera. But it may further be noticed that, at the close of the epidemic in London, as well as at its commencement, the disease very commonly manifested itself by attacking two, three, or more persons in succession, in the same house, in various parts of the metropolis, rather than by single attacks in a greater number of distinct houses; and that these groups of cases frequently occurred in houses which had not previously been visited by the epidemic, and, though usually situated in low and

P. 84.

ill drained spots, were often, in site, and in internal sanitary condition, not apparently worse, frequently better circumstanced, than many others that escaped.

.....

That, in numerous exceptional instances, the times of the commencement and of the cessation of the epidemic in counties, towns, and parts of towns, were imperfectly, if at all accounted for by any circumstances of site or population, or sanitary conditions; and that the absence of simultaneousness, and, indeed, the absence of *any* rule as to the order of succession in the outbreaks in the different parts of small towns, or of the several sub-districts of the metropolis, also found *no satisfactory explanation* in such circumstances.

Ozone.
P. 99.

Reasons have been given at a former page for the belief that there are qualities of air *at present scarcely known but by their effects*, which, according as one or other is present, may repress the epidemic when other circumstances are favorable to its continued rise, or promote its increase in a degree out of proportion to any obviously existing conditions capable of producing such a result. Whether these qualities of the air depend respectively, the one on the absence, and the other on the presence, in unusual quantity of *Ozone*, or some matter having a more special relation to the cause of Cholera, is a question yet to be determined; but all the facts relating to the subject render it probable that the *unknown condition* of the air which represses Cholera is most frequently associated with comparative dryness and purity of the atmosphere, and the *unknown condition* that promotes it, with the presence of moisture and impurities.

Changes of the
Atmosphere produced
no effect.
P. 25.

Now, marked changes of the atmosphere occurred during the prevalence of Cholera in London, in the summer of 1849, and yet there was no corresponding interruptions to the continuance of the epidemic, or variations of its intensity.

.....

Among the frequent changes in the direction of the atmospheric currents which took place during these three months, it may be noticed, for instance, that for eight days together, in the middle of July, the wind blew from the North-east and East, at the average of 55 miles a day; for eleven days together, from the South South-west, at the rate of 122 miles a day, and for eight days, at the end of August, from various points of the compass, at the average rate of 81 miles a day; and that, nevertheless, the number of deaths from Cholera continued to increase, almost without check, from the beginning of July to the 8th September.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

In the first moment of apprehension which the disease that has lately made its appearance amongst the slave population has occasioned in the minds of the inhabitants, the Government had recourse to the opinions of the medical men residing in Port-Louis, considering that, from their skill and experience the best information would be obtained and the safest mode of treatment would be pointed out.—The whole of the Faculty has been assembled under the presidency of Doctor Burke, the Chief Medical Officer, and reports have been drawn up by the English and French Physicians respectively, as most likely to prove satisfactory to the inhabitants. These are too voluminous to be prepared for publication this day, but no time will be lost in printing them at length for the information of the inhabitants.

[Year 1819.]

The Major General Commanding considers it will be satisfactory to them to be informed in the mean time that the prevalent disease is not considered to be contagious, or of foreign introduction.—The first case which appears to have occurred was so far back as the sixth of September last; it was afterwards observed for the first time in the Civil Hospital on the 19th instant.

The following extracts from the Reports of the Committee are published with a view of immediately pointing out to the inhabitants the most obvious and practicable means of prevention, as well as a general and probable remedy when the disease has shewn itself.

Extracts from the Reports of the Medical Commission.

It is observed that the Black and Coloured persons who are not well clothed or fed, or whose occupations expose them to the inclemency of the weather, and especially those working in the open air, the sun and in moist places, are more liable to be affected than others.

Fatigue and exposure to the weather ought consequently to be avoided; and the clothing of the slaves should be attended to, and the use of crude and indigestible food carefully prevented.

Opium will allay irritation, sooth pain, remove spasms, check excessive evacuations, and rather encrease and excite the circulation of the blood; this would seem to be what we want. The Cure cannot, I think, be expected without it. The dose may be from one to three and five grains, or from twenty to sixty, and a hundred drops of Laudanum; if vomited, it should be repeated without delay, mixing the opium with a little syrup and sucking it in, by degrees.

Enemas of Opium in larger quantities (grs. X) or equal quantity of tinct: Opii in four ounces of cangee or mucilaze; the remedies to be repeated according to the effects, and the violence of the symptoms without regard to quantity. The use of opium to be followed by a mild laxative to remove any torpor from it, but care to be taken not to give the laxative too early, so as to prevent any irritation that can cause a relapse. The purgatives may be neutral salts, Jalap, Crem-tartar, Rhu-barb, Magnesia, Castor-Oil, or Calomel may be joined with the opium.

The Committee would strongly urge the most early adoption of whatever means are to be pursued. Those which they would particularly recommend, as being within the reach of almost all, are frictions of the body and limbs with hot arrack, and as soon as possible the employment of the hot bath; the exhibition of hot brandy and water adding, when at hand, a tea spoonfull of Laudanum, and the same quantity of Spirits of Hartshorn. &c; the use of Lavements containing Laudanum to the amount of two tea spoon fulls. These means with the exception of the hot bath they would advise to be most assiduously and rigorously employed until symptoms of the patient's revival become manifest, or till professional aid can be obtained.

With regard to the Blacks, it is in the interest of their masters to clothe them properly, and to pay particular attention to the preservation of their clothing, to see that on quitting their work in a state of perspiration they should forthwith cover themselves, and on no consideration to admit of their sleeping in the open air, neither on the damp ground, or on that warmed by the scorching rays of the sun. It is moreover of the greatest importance that they should be made to refrain from spirituous liquors. And under existing circumstances, it would be advisable they should abstain from them altogether. The food should likewise be strictly examined whether it consist of rice, meat or fish, as they frequently purchase bad articles of the above description. And to prevent which the Police should use every exertion and enquiry in order that the retail traders of such unwholesome provisions which they artfully and injuriously disguise, should be excluded from the Bazar.

Chief Secretary's Office,
Port-Louis, 27th November 1819.

By Order.

(Signed :) G. A. BARRY,
Chief Secretary to Government.

REPORTS

Of a Medical Commission assembled under the Presidency of
W. A. BURKE, Esq^{re}, M. D., Chief Medical Officer.

By order of Major General DARLING, Commanding in the Island
of Mauritius.

MEMORANDUM GIVEN IN TO THE MEDICAL COMMISSION.

Government House, 23rd November 1819.

The Committee are requested in the first instance, to consider what precautionary measures it may be advisable to adopt, with a view to preventing as far as may be practicable, the disease which has lately made its appearance from spreading amongst the inhabitants. They are also recommended to determine as to the course most proper to be pursued after persons are attacked, in order to arrest its progress. And after this, to draw up a statement of their opinion on these two points, that it may be immediately published for the information of the community at large, and that the danger, which might otherwise be apprehended, may be averted by their knowledge and experience.

It will of course occur to the Committee that warm clothing might be useful to the slave population, who are much exposed in the wet and cold weather ; and the inhabitants would no doubt readily provide it; if its advantages were pointed out by the Committee.

I have only further to observe, that it would be useless to state, what medicines may be used with the greatest advantage when the disease first makes its appearance, and to enjoin the proprietors of Establishments to have them at hand, so that they may be administered at the moment.

There is another point, however, to which I am desirous of drawing the attention of the Committee, and that is the particular description of Rice which it may be considered most proper to use on the present occasion. If the Java and Madagascar Rice are not equally safe, it would be desirable for the Committee to recommend the use of the Bengal Rice exclusively.

The Committee will, I am satisfied, concur in the opinion that, however, this disease may have originated, the object of the most importance and demanding immediate attention, is, the means of checking its progress and of ultimately eradicating it from the Colony. It is unwise, if not criminal, to add to the apprehensions of the more unenlightened part of the community, who are not, on occasions of this nature, qualified to judge for themselves ; and it must be unnecessary to point out to the Committee that, the estimation in which their characters individually is so deservedly held, will, with proper exertions, be a means of subduing the alarm which appears to have been entertained, and which indeed, still exists in the minds of many of the inhabitants.

(Signed) R. DARLING,
Major General Commanding.

Port Louis, 26th November 1819.

To Major-General DARLING, Commanding,
&c., &c., &c.

Sir,

I have the honor of transmitting the Reports of the French and English Medical Gentlemen on the prevalent disease ; both clases of the profession seem to be unanimous in not supposing it contagious, or of foreign introduction. From the

disease pervading classes who have nothing in common but the air they breathe, it can be believed that the cause may exist in the atmosphere.

It has been remarked that great vicissitudes in the temperature of the atmosphere such as have been lately observed here, prognosticate the approach of an Epidemic.

A similar disease prevailed in this *Island* in 1775, after a long dry season &c. The symptoms, fatal and sudden effects, and duration, of the disease would seem to be exactly the same ; a hurricane put a stop to its ravages, which continued for probably two months, and caused a great mortality particularly among the Blacks and people of colour.

The first well marked case of the present disease occurred on the 6th of September last, and was treated by Mr. Trebuchet, in Port Louis ; it differs in nothing from the cases which have presented themselves since the 18th and 19th instant, and which appeared to break out so suddenly in all quarters of this Town. Two cases of the disease are reported to have occurred yesterday on the side of the *Rivière du Rempart* ; and two more at Moka among Blacks, who have not had communication with Port Louis for three years.

It is observed hitherto that the Blacks and coloured persons who are not so well clothed, or fed, or whose occupations expose them to the inclemency of the weather, and especially those working in the open air, the sun, and in moist places &c. are more liable to be affected than others. But it is to be taken into consideration that the great proportion of the population is of that class.

I entertain no doubt but that the disease may be quickly and certainly cured by the timely use of the proper remedies ; that is while the pulsation of the heart and arteries, and the heat of the extremities are still to be felt, and the powers of life have not sunk. After which the case is indeed entirely changed, and the ultimate event is to be dreaded, whatever may be the treatment. This change is moreover not limited to any specific time ; and the recovery from it must depend on the indefatigable assiduity and exertion of the attendants.

Being incertain of the actual cause of the disease, we cannot determine on the prophylactic or preservative means ; but here is the example of a populous town in a low situation surrounded by mountains, wherein the disease commenced, and prevails : a situation high, dry and airy, may be therefore supposed to be the situation to be preferred.

Fatigue and exposure to the weather, bad clothing and the use of crude and indigestible food ought likewise as far as possible to be remedied,

Worms which are so common among the Blacks may prove an exciting cause and when they are suspected, anthelmintics should enter into the curative means.

In the treatment of it we can from our present knowledge, merely combat the symptoms.

Opium will allay irritation, sooth pain, remove spasms, check excessive evacuations, and rather encrease and excite the circulation of the blood, this would seem to be what we want. A cure, I think, cannot be expected without it ; the dose may be from three to five grains ; or from sixty to one hundred drops of Laudanum ; if vomited, it should be repeated without delay, mixing the opium with a little syrup, and sucking it in, by degrees.

Enemas of Opium in larger quantities (grs. X) or an equal quantity of tinct : opii in four ounces of cangee or mucilage ; the remedies to be repeated according to the effects, and the violence of the symptoms without regard to quantity. The use of Opium to be followed by a mild laxative, to remove any torpor from it, but care must be taken not to give the laxative too early ; so as to prevent any irritation that can cause a relapse ; the purgatives may be neutral salts, jalap, crem-tartar, Rhubarb, Magnesia, Castor Oil ; or Calomel may be joined with the opium. Among the antispasmodics the warm bath is of great use ; but as it is apt to cause asphyxy and to encrease the oppression in the heart its use requires caution, while

in the bath the vapour of ammonia to be applied to the nostrils ; alcool and stimulating aromatics to be added to the bath.

Fomentations and frictions with hot Spirits or Oils, to be used in the intervals of the bath, or when it cannot be used, Wine and Spirits, diluted with warm water, with or without aromatics, may be exhibited ; but in cases where the nervous sensations of burning pain in the stomach &c., (as in pyrosis) is severe, spirits may encrease the symptoms ; camphor, may then be used ; the effects of which are similar to those of alcool, while its action on the nerves produces quite a different sensation. The same may be observed of dether sulph ; and ol : ment : pt. while ammonia may be classed with the alcool.

These are the principal means during the first set of symptoms and are to be varied with different constitutions. But as unfortunately we do not often see patients till the circulation seems to have ceased &c., it is then our business to commence with the antispasmodics ; and then to use the remedies which have direct influence on the action of the heart, such as sinapisms of Mustard, garlick, capsicum &c., to the stomach, which are quicker in their operation than blisters ; frictions with hot spirits, oils, wrapping in warm blankets, dusted with ginger and pepper &c. Galvanism and electricity may be had recourse to with a probability of good effects.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble Servant.

(Signed :) W. A. BURKE,
I. H. C. M. D.

REPORT.

Of the Committee of British Medical Officers, stationed in Port Louis.

The Committee request to observe that the first case of the disease of which they have received any account, appeared on the 6th September last, under the care of Mr. Trebuchet, and the first occurring in the practice of the Civil Hospital was observed on the 19th instant.

The *Topaze* arrived on 29th October 1819.

The symptoms in the two cases alluded to, perfectly corresponded with those of the numerous instances of the disease which have since occurred : those more particularly characteristic of the disease, are sudden and excessive prostration of strength with sinking of the pulse ; extreme coldness of the surface of the body which is covered with cold viscid perspiration, and a distressing uneasy sensation in the abdomen. The progress of which has generally carried off the patient in the space of a few hours.

Cholera.

The Committee, from a consideration of the history and progress of the disease, feel the strongest persuasion that it is not of a contagious nature, and that it is NOT OF FOREIGN INTRODUCTION.

Not of foreign introduction.

They are farther of opinion, from the various descriptions and habits of life of those attacked, that the cause of the disease must be of the most general and extensive influence. And nothing, the Committee would add, has come before them to induce an opinion of the disease, deriving its origin from the use of improper aliment.

With reference to the disease originating in atmospheric influence, the Committee beg to remark that for sometime past the temperature of the atmosphere has been subject to vicissitudes unusually great and sudden ; to these vicissitudes of temperature the Committee are however by no means disposed to attribute the origin of the disease, altho' they consider them as calculated to favor both this, and its progress.

Cholera 1775.

The Committee request to say that they have not either in this Island or else where, met with a disease possessing the Characters of that which now prevails ; but that from the reports of several individuals, some of whom belong to the medical profession, it does appear that a disease most strongly resembling in its symptoms, progress and termination that now under consideration *did* for some-time prevail in this Colony in the year 1775.

The Committee deeply regret that they have it not in their power to point out any specific precautionary means. They however would wish to recommend generally in so far as respects the Negro population a generous diet, and the means of protection against the vicissitudes of the weather.

The Committee further lament, that their experience does not enable them to suggest any plan of treatment which promises decided success ; they wish however most strongly to urge the most early adoption of whatever means are to be pursued.

Those which they would particularly recommend, as being within the reach of almost all, are frictions of the body and limbs with hot arrack ; and as soon as practicable the employment of the hot bath ; the exhibition of hot Brandy and water adding, when at hand, a tea spoonful of laudanum, and the same quantity of spirits of hartshorn &c. The use of lavements containing laudanum to the amount of two tea spoonfuls. These means with the exception of the hot bath, they would advise to be most assiduously, and vigorously employed until symptoms of the patient's revival become manifest or till professional aid can be obtained.

Signed : William SIBBALD, M. D.—H.W. MARKAM,
Surgeon, 56th Regiment, — A. Mc.
DONALD, Royal Artillery, M. D.—J. R.
GILLESPIE, Hospital Assistant,—John
KINNISS, M. D., Hospital Assistant.

RAPPORT

Des Médecins et Officiers de Santé Français, réunis en commission
pour délibérer sur la maladie qui règne en ce moment en cette
Colonie.

Le 26 Novembre 1819.

La Commission de Santé, convoquée par ordre du Gouvernement, a tenu plusieurs séances pour entendre le rapport des divers praticiens, qui avaient eu l'occasion de voir et d'observer les noirs atteints d'une maladie inquiétante par sa gravité et par sa rapidité funeste ; et pour juger ses propres observations faites en commun sur les cadavres qui ont été soumis par elle à l'autopsie. Elle a pensé qu'elle devrait publier son premier jugement sur la nature de la maladie, sur les moyens de la prévenir et sur l'indication générale du traitement, afin de porter la sécurité dans l'esprit des personnes tourmentées par la crainte de l'infection ou de la Contagion.

Incertaine elle-même, et inquiète au premier aperçu, d'une maladie qui se manifestait par un danger mortel, la Commission a dû recueillir les phénomènes premiers et dominants (obscurs indicateurs de la nature de la maladie) qu'elle a appris à expliquer par les autopsies qu'elle a faites.

Ces phénomènes sont une faiblesse subite avec des tiraillements ou douleurs dans les muscles des extrémités, qui font chercher un appui pour ne pas tomber ; un refroidissement général de toute la surface du corps ; une privation absolue du battement du cœur et de toutes les artères extérieures ; une cessation générale de la circulation à la surface, tellement que la ligature placée sur le bras n'a pu faire gonfler les veines, pour y pratiquer une saignée, et que les ventouses scarifiées ont laissé couler un peu de sang, comme s'il sortait d'un vaisseau affaissé, atoné et

presque vide : des évacuations par haut et par bas, séreuses, blanchâtres, muqueuses, rares, se bornant souvent à des efforts de vomissements et de déjections alunées, les boissons prises facilement étaient rarement rejetées. La face était grippée, sombre, marquant une anxiété intérieure extrême ; un decubitus presque immobile sur le dos ou sur le ventre ; les yeux à moitié fermés, le globe relevé sous la paupière ; une voix altérée, silencieuse, ou des gémissements plaintifs. Les facultés intellectuelles se manifestant par les réponses de oui ou de non, sans le désir ni la volonté d'émettre beaucoup de paroles. Ces malades se soutenant avec peine pour l'emploi des remèdes. Une sueur grasse, la mort sans convulsion ou agitation, surtout dans les momens où on voulait les remuer.

L'ouverture des cadavres a montré une inflammation intense, soit l'ensemble de l'estomac et de tout le canal intestinal, soit partiellement de tout l'intestin grêle, ou de tout le gros intestin, l'estomac était presque toujours distendu par les boissons avalées qui n'ont pu traverser le pylor ; toute l'étendue de l'arc du Colon a souvent paru très contracté dans son diamètre. L'aspect de la couche intestinale était brunâtre. L'épiplon recoquillé, quelquefois adhérent au péritoine par parties, toujours flétri, et comme dépouillé de sa graisse par une longue maladie. Tous les parois des intestins étaient fort injectés, souvent noirâtres ; la muqueuse très rouge, désorganisée, avec quelques points de suppuration dans un estomac et des taches gangreneuses dans plusieurs parties ; en un mot, la maladie s'est montrée comme un entérite ou gastro-entérite presque totale ; la durée n'a pas été chez quelques malades de plus de 10 à 12 heures, la plus grande durée ordinairement a été de 48 à 50 heures ; elle a été mortelle chez presque tous.

La Commission ne se décide pas aujourd'hui sur la question de savoir si l'état inflammatoire est déjà formé, lorsque les symptômes d'un froid glacial, de la cessation de la circulation extérieure, de la face grippée &c, ont annoncé l'invasion apparente de la maladie, ou plutôt, ce qu'elle pencherait à croire, si cette inflammation, ne serait pas le résultat d'une congestion intérieure occasionnée par une constriction spasmodique de toute la périphérie du corps et par un refoulement de la transpiration et de toutes les liqueurs sur les viscères du bas ventre ; il n'est parvenu à la commission aucune connaissance des choses qui ont précédé le moment subit et mortel de l'invasion extérieure.

Après l'exposition de ces faits, la commission ne s'arrêtera pas non plus à des spéculations, sur la question de savoir si quelques miasmes ou exhalations répandus dans l'atmosphère, ont pu être la cause déterminante de cette inflammation gastrique, ou si elle dépend de l'influence particulière de l'atmosphère agissant sur la surface du corps, ou si elle résulte de l'influence de quelques causes extérieures reçues intérieurement par les divers individus qui sont atteints de la maladie ; mais elle va s'attacher à trouver de nouvelles lumières dans le développement d'autres faits qui sont propres à éclairer son jugement et à ramener la sécurité publique.

La Commission a observé que la maladie a été limitée dans une portion de la classe des noirs particulièrement employés aux travaux actifs, chez les charretiers, les porteurs, les noirs des grands Etablissements et autres semblables individus adonnés plus ou moins aux boissons alcoolisées, aux alimens forts et à un régime le plus propre à entretenir une grande irritabilité dans le système gastrique, lesquels surtout sont exposés tout le jour par la nature de leur travail à vivre sous l'action du soleil, à recevoir l'action des stimulans extérieurs les plus forts, à souffrir une sueur constante qui peut être supprimée subitement par les différentes négligences qu'ils peuvent commettre. Cette maladie ne s'est pas communiquée jusqu'ici chez aucune autre classe de noirs, ni chez les noirs des deux camps, ni sur les individus blancs.

Une autre observation aussi positive, c'est que la saison des premières chaleurs est toujours l'époque des maladies gastriques, des irritations du bas ventre, des coliques, des flux simples ou dissenteriques, du Choléra etc., et il n'est aucun des membres de la Commission qui n'ait eu à traiter de semblables incommodités avant l'époque actuelle, comme dans le moment présent. Les causes occasionnelles

de ces accidents sont indubitablement une plus grande susceptibilité gastrique dans la saison chaude où nous sommes entrés, et un danger des fréquentes suppressions de transpiration causées par les vicissitudes journalières de la température atmosphérique, souvent rafraîchie à différentes parties du jour, surtout le soir et par les vents du large, si communs dans cette saison.

Cette susceptibilité est la cause disposante de la maladie observée, qui est aussi une affection gastrique, très-intense, accompagnée d'une inflammation du bas ventre, plus ou moins étendue et soupçonnée par quelques uns dépendre de l'ingestion d'un poisson salé qui empoisonne, de la tortue à écaille, également venimeuse et d'autres alimens et liqueurs de mauvaise qualité.

Il ne devait pas échapper à la commission de se rappeler que la saison ordinairement fraîche qui vient de s'écouler, a été toujours chaude accompagnée de vents du large, tellement qu'on se plaignait généralement qu'il n'y avait pas d'hiver; ainsi l'atmosphère a été privée de cette diminution de calorique, si utilement intermédiaire entre les deux saisons chaudes, pour modérer l'irritabilité intestinale et l'excitabilité cutanée, et pour préparer les individus à être affectés moins vicieusement par le stimulant de la chaleur au retour de l'été; aussi a-t-il été observé que les chaleurs ont été très fortes de bonne heure, et on entendait répéter qu'il y aurait des maladies pendant la chaleur.

Cette disposition morbide doit être restée plus grande chez des noirs vigoureux, toujours livrés à des travaux pénibles, sous la grande chaleur, toujours à demi-nus, abusant des liqueurs spiritueuses et des alimens excitants, et doués par conséquent d'une irritabilité locale générale, beaucoup plus considérable, et plus susceptible aux causes qui déterminent une suppression de la transpiration, un refoulement des liqueurs à l'intérieur, une congestion sur les organes du bas ventre; en un mot une inflammation violente de ces viscères préalablement fort irrités.

Cette explication prend ici toute sa force lorsqu'on se rappelle que dès Jeudi et Vendredi 18 et 19 Novembre, où a commencé à se manifester la maladie particulière dont il s'agit, on a éprouvé pendant plusieurs jours des vents du large, des vents chauds, lourds, orageux, qui ont donné généralement des maux de tête et des lassitudes; sorte de vents les plus propres, suivant le principe de la médecine, à supprimer la transpiration; ajouter à cette circonstance les vicissitudes journalières de la température atmosphérique, et la cause particulière aux noirs de travail, exposés à nu à l'action du soleil et presque toujours trempés de sueur, laquelle cause est l'habitude de chercher à les diminuer en buvant de l'eau froide, en s'exposant subitement à un air froid ou en cherchant le sommeil sur un terrain humide et à l'air libre.

La Commission invite à reconnaître que l'explication qu'elle donne de l'état morbide actuel n'est pas une Théorie recherchée ou qu'on puisse accuser d'être accommodée à la nécessité de rassurer le public; elle naît des faits eux-mêmes, elle apprend pourquoi cette affection gastrique est plus intense dans les sujets atteints, et peut le devenir sur des individus semblables; elle rend compte de la nature de la maladie qui est une véritable inflammation gastrique entérée ou gastro-entérée selon l'étendue du siège, produite sur des organes irrités chez les hommes de peine par un refoulement de la transpiration insensible, par une concentration spasmodique de l'extérieur sur l'intérieur; elle nous conduit à l'exposition des moyens préservatifs, lors même que dans la supposition la plus désavantageuse, il y aurait dans l'atmosphère un miasme irritant qui excite spécifiquement le système gastrique; et dans ce cas il en résulterait toujours pour l'art, l'indication semblable de modifier et de diminuer l'excitabilité du canal digestif, afin de modérer l'action du principe irritant, comme si ce principe résultait uniquement de l'ingestion ou de l'abus des liqueurs falsifiées ou mauvaises, ou d'alimens corrompus; et de rétablir la réaction vers l'extérieur pour rappeler la circulation vers la surface, et la transpiration.

La commission se croit assez instruite aujourd'hui pour déclarer que cette maladie n'est pas contagieuse; et son jugement se trouve parfaitement confirmé par cette simple considération, que plusieurs négresses se sont rendues à bord du vais-

seau le jour même de son arrivée, y ont séjourné et n'ont cessé de le fréquenter ainsi que le campement où on a établi l'équipage, et aucune d'elles n'a contracté d'infection. D'ailleurs quand même la maladie se fût montrée sous la forme d'un Choléra, elle n'en serait pas moins l'effet des causes indigènes qui sont la constitution d'un climat chaud, parcequ'il est constant que le Cholera-Morbus n'est pas d'une nature contagieuse, comme l'est au contraire la dissenterie, et qu'il n'est qu'une maladie épidémique aux lieux où il règne ordinairement.

La commission va passer à présent à l'examen des moyens de préservation. Elle conseille le traitement anti-phlogistique pour tenter la résolution des parties enflammées lorsque la maladie est formée. Ce traitement n'est pas encore assez déterminé et appliqué à l'espèce par les membres de la commission.

Les vues prophylactiques que propose la commission de santé, contre les accidents gastriques qui se sont manifestés subitement avec un danger si grave consistent à modifier l'irritabilité des voies alimentaires, afin de corriger et de diminuer l'action de toutes les choses ingérées, propres à les irriter et à fuir les causes de la suppression de la transpiration.

Elle conseille à tous les individus de faire choix d'un régime doux, peu chargé d'assaisonnement, d'épiceries et d'autres mélanges faits pour satisfaire ou irriter le sens de l'appétit. Il faut user sobrement ou se priver des boissons spiritueuses pures. L'usage du café, exigé le matin par l'habitude ou après le repas, peut être permis pour la régularité des fonctions de l'estomac. On doit préférer le pain à l'usage du riz qui est acrescent lorsque l'estomac souffre : en un mot éviter la grande quantité et la mauvaise qualité des aliments et des boissons ; le poisson doit être mangé très frais ; il faut être très discret sur le choix des espèces de tortues ; les fruits bien murs sont très salutaires ; tous les végétaux peuvent être employés.

Les personnes facilement sujettes aux coliques, aux flatuosités, à une susceptibilité trop grande du ventre, et peut-être toutes personnes, doivent dans ce moment, user avec avantage de quelques tasses de boissons mucilagineuses, délayantes, légèrement diaphorétiques, comme : thé léger, avec jus de citron, une tasse de tilleul avec un peu de gomme arabique, et dulcorée avec du sirop de guimauve ; une légère infusion de feuilles d'orangers avec un peu de lait et même sirop ; une eau panée avec un peu de sirop de gomme ; une légère décoction d'orge mondé avec jus de citron ; une eau légère de graine de lin, de mauve, de parriétaire &c. On peut ajouter à ces boissons de l'eau de fleurs d'orangers sucrée et 4 à 5 gouttes de laudanum dans chaque tasse, si on sent quelques agacemens dans les intestins ; l'usage modéré des bains généraux et locaux ; les bains intérieurs ; la promenade du matin préférable à celle du soir ; ne pas étendre les veillées trop tard ; éviter le travail et l'exercice extérieur pendant le fort de la chaleur ; ne pas s'exposer pendant la sueur à un air frais, ni même se reposer tout de suite en rentrant échauffé et suant ; se vêtir assez pour ne pas craindre la température plus fraîche du soir ; ne pas se tenir assis à la chûte du jour, exposé à l'air, surtout s'il y a eu de l'orage, un vent du large et de la pluie ; éviter le soir les endroits ombragés dans les habitations.

Les personnes plus craintives qui redoutent la présence des miasmes morbides supposés dans l'atmosphère, peuvent porter sur elles, les diverses odeurs préservatives connues, ou employer les vapeurs de Morveaux, elles doivent se laver souvent, être très propres, ne pas avoir des communications très rapprochées avec des inconnus ; elles peuvent prendre le matin, 20 à 30 grains de quinquina en poudre dans un demigobelet d'eau ou de vin ; ou plus agréablement, prendre un mélange d'une cuillerée d'eau de fleurs d'orangers, avec un peu d'eau de Cologne ou de mélisse dulcorée, ou simplement une cuillerée d'eau de fleurs d'orangers avec quelques gouttes d'éther et un peu de sucre.

La Commission ne croit pas à la nécessité de fuir le séjour du Port, mais elle ne désapprouve pas cette précaution chez les personnes craintives qui s'exposeraient par la peur à divers accidens, qui ne seraient pas la maladie. Elle recommande en général du courage et de la confiance dans les soins et les précautions qu'elle sollicitera du Gouvernement, chaque fois qu'il en sera nécessaire ; elle s'est assurée

mild
absolut
alcohol

de la régularité des visites sanitaires en rade et de la séquestration de tout vaisseau suspect.

Elle donne le conseil de ne pas employer, sans l'avis des Médecins, le mélange alcoolique opiacé vendu dans les officines, parceque l'emploi de ce moyen serait nuisible dans la maladie examinée, et parceque les individus peuvent se tromper sur la nature des douleurs du bas ventre, qu'ils peuvent éprouver ; quant aux noirs, il est de l'intérêt des propriétaires de les vêtir, de veiller aux soins et à la conservation de leurs vêtemens, de les faire se couvrir, en quittant leur travail, baignés de sueur ; de ne leur permettre jamais de coucher dehors, ni sur un terrain humide ou échauffé par le soleil. On doit empêcher qu'ils ne prennent trop de liqueurs spiritueuses, et dans cette constitution actuelle, leur en défendre l'usage. Il faut examiner les alimens qu'ils emploient soit en riz, poissons et viande qu'ils achètent de mauvaise nature ; pour cet effet, la Police renouvellera sa surveillance, afin de bannir du Bazar les petits vendeurs d'aliments gâtés qu'ils déguisent par des apprêts trompeurs et nuisibles. On assure que les animaux morts, des chevaux exposés à la voierie, ont été dépecés et vendus en ragout au Bazar. Son examen dans les Cantines doit devenir plus rigoureux pour les arracks, souvent altérés par les débitants, dans l'intention de rendre leur boisson plus excitante et plus propre à séduire le palais des buveurs ; les fabricants eux-mêmes doivent être tenus à ne livrer leur arrack au débit qu'après six mois d'ancienneté au moins.

On peut dans ce moment faire boire aux noirs quelques tasses d'eau d'orge ou de mauve, ou de gombo, ou de graine de lin, ou même de l'eau pure un peu vinaigrée, qui est surtout nécessaire aux ouvriers pendant leur travail.

Il faut obtenir s'il est possible, que les noirs porteurs ne boivent pas de l'eau fraîche, pendant leur marche, et qu'à leur arrivée encore tout suants, ils ne se couchent pas à l'ombre, la Police doit être moins complaisante pour les réunions et les danses des noirs qui durent plusieurs heures chaque soir ; ces nègres réunis boivent beaucoup plus que lorsqu'ils sont isolés. Le nombre et la durée de ces divertissemens devraient être raccourcis.

Tels sont les moyens que la Commission a cru nécessaire de publier conformément aux notions qu'elle a pu acquérir jusqu'à ce moment sur les causes et la nature de la maladie régnante.

Port Louis, le 25 Novembre 1819.

(Signé) LABORDE, Docteur Médecin,—ROBERT, Docteur Médecin,—JOSSE, Docteur Médecin,—HÉRAUD,—MARGEOT,—J. B. HARDOUIN,—LEMARCHAND,—CHAUVINEAU,—BERTHIER,—L. TRÉBUCHET,—FADHEUIL,—MICHEL, Docteur Médecin,—GUILLEMEAU, Docteur Médecin.

La Commission de santé n'a aucun motif de croire la maladie régnante contagieuse, et cette opinion est unanime parmi tous les membres.

Port-Louis, 29 Novembre 1819.

(Signé) LABORDE, Docteur Médecin,—GUILLEMEAU, Docteur Médecin,—MICHEL, Docteur Médecin,—JOSSE, Docteur Médecin,—FADHEUIL,—J. B. HARDOUIN,—HÉRAUD,—AILLAUD,—MARGEOT,—KENIG,—L. TRÉBUCHET,—LAVERGNE,—SIBBALD, D. M.,—H. M. MARKHAM, Chirurgien Major, 56me,—A. McDONALD, Docteur Médecin,—J. R. GILLESPIE,—J. KINNIS,—W. A. BURKE, Médecin en Chef, Président.

(True copies and extracts from the Mauritius Gazette of the 4th December 1819.)

FROM THE APPENDIX

TO THE REPORT

OF THE

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON

1854,

AND OTHER OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

OZONE.

P. 104.

The absence of Ozone in low-lying localities, where Cholera has been most prevalent and fatal, tends to prove that Ozone is a purifying agent.

Report of the Committee for Scientific Inquiries in relation to the Cholera Epidemic of 1854.

Published 1855. It now remains for us to appreciate, one by one, in their relation to life, the several meteorological deviations which Mr. Glaisher records, and this is no easy task, for the pathological meaning of many atmospheric variations, at least in their minor degrees, is hitherto quite unknown. What effect is produced on human life by an inch rise or fall in the barometer, by fluctuations of humidity and dew point, even by seasons of non-average temperature, is very imperfectly measured. Still less is known of the chemical activities of the atmosphere. We know, indeed, that this boundless ocean of air is one-fifth of its volume oxygen—the gas which, more or less, rapidly brings all organic compounds into simpler chemical forms, exhausting those qualities that make putridity, and terminating those transitional states in which the power of morbid infection resides; but there is every reason to believe that the oxidizing power of the air varies at different moments, as assuredly it varies at different spots. Electrical discharges, the frequent source of such variations, constantly occur in the atmosphere, developing in it, wherever it extends, that mysterious increase of its oxidizing power which is called *Ozone*, a qualification of the air so subtile in its kind that chemists still doubt whether it be a separate entity—yet in its function so definite, so hostile to organic measures, so incompatible with them, that *its presence* enables us to affirm *their absence*.

Meteorology, &c.

Appendix to Report.

Royal Col. Physicians, London.

P. 78, 79.

By Mr. Glaisher.

I am now going to institute a brief comparison of London meteorology with that of Worcester, Liverpool, Dunino, and Arbroath for the same period. But that which is wanting to give value to the present inquiry is a definite knowledge of the meteorological condition of the towns above mentioned, of which I have chosen Worcester and Liverpool, as being visited by the Cholera at about the same time as the metropolis, but to a less degree; and Dunino and Arbroath as being far north, and enjoying a comparative, if not *total* immunity from the ravages of the great devastator.

.....

I have little hesitation in saying that, were the meteorology of our towns carefully ascertained and collated with that of the metropolis, and both together with that of the country generally, of which last I have a foundation of many years continuous observations, that in a short time we should be in a condition to elucidate a clear insight into the meteorological causes of Cholera, influenza, and many phases of disease which now burst upon us, with the suddenness and devastating power of a Divine and wrathful visitation.

The conditions most favorable to health, in all cases, are an average degree of pressure, temperature, and humidity. A departure from these conditions at once tells upon the public health in a degree proportional to the amount of departure. Thus we see that in the country at large, in obedience to the laws of climate, an equal degree of health is not always to be enjoyed, nor an equal degree of mortality to be expected.

P. 116, 117. The meteorological phenomena in relation to Cholera in the year 1832 furnish us with the means of comparison with the phenomena of 1849 and 1854, in relation to the general pressure of the atmosphere, temperature of the air, direction of the wind, fall of rain, clearness of sky, and frequency of electrical disturbances, but do not furnish other particulars.

.....

In the year 1854 the pressure of the atmosphere was great, the temperature generally high. At the time of the greatest mortality from Cholera the barometer reading was remarkably high, and the temperature above its average. Weak positive electricity; no rain. An absence of Ozone, and no electricity.

The three epidemics were attended with a particular state of atmosphere. During the height of the epidemic, in all cases, the reading of the barometer was remarkably high, and the atmosphere thick. In 1849 and 1854 the temperature was above its average. In places near the river, a deficiency of electricity, and, as shown in 1854, a total absence of Ozone, most probably destroyed by the decomposition of the organic matter with which the air in these situations is strongly charged. In 1849 and 1854 the first decline of the disease was marked by a decrease in the readings of the barometer, and in the temperature of the air and water.

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P. 117. The co-existence of Cholera with coincident meteorological phenomena, is, to say the least of it, remarkable; so is the stagnant atmosphere prevalent during the time of Cholera in each of the three periods, and which would seem to be a necessary condition to the activity of the disease.

.....

P. 117. What other causes are combined with those of meteorology to aid the progress of this formidable epidemic, have yet to be ascertained.

P. 161. On hearing of the late fearful outburst of Cholera, the question which we heard asked on all sides, and which naturally suggests itself to every inquiring mind, is "What is the cause?" The very importance of the question makes us diffident in replying to it, nor could we receive any satisfactory answer to it from the Medical practitioners, or from the more intelligent of the inhabitants in the District. The sewers—the air—the water, &c.—were each assigned as the cause, more particularly the sewers. For ourselves we have no new theory to offer. We are inclined to believe that there existed a peculiar condition of the atmosphere, which has been called choleraic, wherein the exhalations from sewers, impure water, bad house drainage, *overcrowding*, intemperance, fear, may operate on individuals so as to produce the disease; nor can we call to mind an instance in which the sufferer had not been exposed to the action of some of those circumstances which, during the prevalence of epidemics, act as fuel on fire.

P. 161. Thus, as the poisonous emanations rose from the sewers, they remained suspended in the immediately surrounding atmosphere, which was remarked at the time to have little or no horizontal

movement. The benefit of what little movement did exist would be mostly experienced at the corner of Little Windmill street and Brewer street, where several most offensive gullies at the side, and a choaked up necessary behind, belonging to the next house, sent up their pestiferous vapors.

As a proof of the immunity of several corner houses, we may mention the six corner houses on the north side of Broad street, although the street was the most heavily visited in the District.

Unknown Agency.

Report of the Medical Council to Sir Benjamin Hall, President of the General Board of Health, London, 1854.

The extraordinary irruption of Cholera in the Soho District, which was carefully examined by Mr. Fraser, Mr. Hughes, and Mr. Ludlow, does not appear to afford any exception to generalizations respecting local states of uncleanness, overcrowding, and imperfect ventilation. The suddenness of the outbreak, its immediate climax and short duration, all point to some atmospheric or other widely diffused agent *still to be discovered*, and forbid the assumption, in this instance, of any communication of the disease from person to person, either by infection, or by contamination of water.

P. 8. That which has been so repeatedly and wisely urged regarding the removal of accumulating filth, and the correction of nuisances, during intervals comparatively free from disease, may be pleaded with equal truth as to the necessity of an uninterrupted continuance of scientific enquiries during the same seasons of immunity, from which alone can we reasonably expect to obtain the requisite data for a true theory of the causes, or a wise plan for the cure of any future epidemic.

Cholera and Diarrhœa.

Report of the Committee for Scientific Enquiries in relation to the Cholera Epidemic of 1854. Published in 1855.

P. 62, 63.

During the eighteen months from July 1853 to December 1854, 11,661 deaths from Cholera were registered in London, and as many as 6,258 deaths from Diarrhœa. Making an ample deduction from this number, on the score of the deaths from bowel complaints of various forms which occur annually when Cholera does not prevail, there remain 4,000 deaths referable to the epidemic, and registered as due to *Diarrhœa*. How did these 4,000 cases differ from the 11,661 Cholera deaths? That many of them presented distinctive features cannot be doubted. In the first place, the average duration of the 4,150 cases of fatal Diarrhœa registered was 13 days, so that a large portion of them must have been cases in which the disease ran a slow course; and in the second place, children, and old persons above the age of 65, furnished a large majority of them. Now, there are fatal cases of the disease in which the lividity of the surface and the cramps are either very little marked, or are absent, and these cases are observed chiefly in children and old persons, and are often of a lingering character. They, therefore, in all probability, form a part of the cases which appear in the Register of Deaths as fatal cases of *Diarrhœa*.

Contagion.

Report of the Committee for Scientific Enquiries in relation to the Cholera Epidemic of 1854.

With reference to the communication of the disease from person to person, no large body of evidence, either of a positive or of a negative tendency, has been received. In the paper communicated from the Middlesex Hospital, it is stated that in that institution "no disproportionate liability to the disease has been manifested in those who have been engaged in attendance on the

Published in 1855. "sick, or engaged about their dead bodies, or occupied in cleaning their linen. One patient and two nurses were attacked while in P. 58. "the Hospital."

In St. Thomas' Hospital, the staff of "sisters" and "nurses" consisted of 19 sisters and 47 nurses, one sister, who had at first the charge of the special wards for Cholera, and four nurses not in attendance in the Cholera wards, passed through the different stages into complete collapse. The sister recovered; three of the nurses died.

In the city of Montreal, in 1832, the Cholera made its appearance with great violence, carrying off its victims by thousands. It ravaged the city and adjacent country from 1832 to 1834.

On the St. Lawrence, immediately opposite to Montreal, and within a very short distance of the city is a small Island called "*St. Helena*." Immediately upon the breaking out of the Cholera in Montreal, the authorities removed the *military* to "*St. Helena*." The people from the island went every morning to the city to make their Bazaar, and mixed with the inhabitants of the infected city, as people in Bazaars usually do; but, notwithstanding this *daily* constant communication, there was never *one* case of Cholera on the island during the whole time. Here, then, is an island *without* any Quarantine laws, with an infected city within a cannon shot, in daily communication with its inhabitants, just as highly favored as the island of Bourbon, with its severe Quarantine laws.

Not known what Cholera is.

Report of the Committee for Scientific Inquiries in relation to the Cholera Epidemic of 1854. Published in 1855. The solution of the first question "Through what channel does the exterior cause or poison of Cholera first enter, or affect the human body? Is it through the lungs, or through the stomach and intestines? or otherwise?—obviously might be aided by evidence of various kinds, for example: 1st. By facts showing whether the atmosphere of localities infected by Cholera has, or has not properties favorable to the existence and increase in it of an organic or inorganic poisonous matter; or whether it contains, or does not contain, some matter of a peculiar character, which might be regarded as the poison itself.

2d. By evidence of the presence of such peculiar matter in the air tubes of the lungs.

3d. By facts demonstrating, on the other hand, its presence in the water drunk, or in other articles of diet; and

4th. By the demonstration of its existence in the stomach and intestines, or in the discharge from them.

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The important observations of Mr. Glaisher, already noticed at length, demonstrate that, not only in 1854, but likewise in 1849, and, as far as can now be ascertained, 1832, many conditions of the London atmosphere were such as would favor the retention and increase of any poisonous matter in the air, and that these conditions increased concurrently with the rise of the epidemic, and diminished with its decline. Such facts accord well with the view that the poison of Cholera enters the human body through the lungs.

Cholera Self-Engendered.

Letter of the
President of
General Board of
Health, London,
to Lord Palmer-
ston, Secretary of
State, Home De-
partment—1854.

P. 26, 27.

All the Inspectors agree in stating, as the result of their experience, that in those places where Cholera had become localized, they found it connected with obvious removable causes.

The chief place among these local causes is assigned to the state of the drainage, especially in the flat, low-lying districts South of the Thames, and in part of Chelsea and Fulham. In all these parts of the metropolis there are large masses of population dependent for their drainage on open ditches, tidal ditches, old, badly constructed sewers, and still worse house drains—the result of the whole being that the excreta of a large part of the metropolis are not conveyed away, but are left to putrify and rot in the open air, in cess-pools under houses, or in large underground sewers—always generating foul gasses, which are poured out into the streets, or into the houses, while in the more open districts the exhalations from the ditches keep the atmosphere in a constantly malarious condition. The Reports of the Inspectors contain numerous illustrations of the effect of these causes in predisposing the people to attacks of Cholera; and it is worthy of remark that the exhalations from open ditches so much complained of at the present time, occupied a prominent position among the causes to which, in former days, the sweating sickness was attributed.

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The following illustrations of their effects on the public health are given:—

Great Western Terrace, Kensall new town, consists of ten or twelve cottages, with gardens in front. There was no apparent cause of disease in this case, except that in front of the houses was an open ditch, passing into an open sewer. A good deal of Diarrhœa and several deaths from Cholera took place in these houses.

Dr. Fraser mentions an instance, in this same district, of five deaths having taken place in three houses. Behind one of those houses ran a foul ditch, which receives the drainage of a number of privies. In a cottage nearest this ditch two persons died. The remaining three deaths were those of laborers living at a greater distance from the ditch, but who had worked in the field through which it passed. They had all complained greatly of the stench from it up to the time of their being taken ill. Open ditches, used as sewers, are common in all the Parishes that were under Dr. Greenhow's inspection. He says:—“Whenever these ditches are used as sewers, more or less Cholera appeared in any houses sufficiently near to be affected by the exhalations, and it was remarkable to observe the inhabitants of the neighbouring streets visited by the epidemic in nearly exact proportion to their proximity to the ditch.

P. 35.

Dr. Greenhow also mentions a case of a respectable woman being carried off by Cholera from accidentally inhaling the effluvia arising from a sewer near St. George's Church, in the borough.

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The people complained greatly of the nuisance from the dust yard. A large proportion of the inhabitants had diarrhœa. There were about 12 cases of Cholera, 8 of which proved fatal. A family removed from the square, and another family took the house. Three of the members of this new family immediately took

Cholera, and one died. A good many cases of Cholera and several deaths took place in each of the other streets round the dust yard.

.....

P. 48. In summing up his inquiry as to the effect of impure water on Cholera, Dr. Greenhow says:—"Although doubtless the unwholesome water has much aggravated the result, it is only one cause among several," and he adds:—"The amount of mortality has generally borne a direct ratio to the amount of atmospheric contamination.

P. 66. As an illustration of immunity from attacks of Cholera following on improvements, Dr. Greenhow mentions a district in St. Savours, which used to be traversed by an open ditch. The houses along this ditch suffered severely from Cholera in 1832, and again in 1849. The ditch has been covered since that date, and the neighbourhood escaped entirely during the late epidemic, (1854.) A similar result was obtained by covering one of these ditches which ran behind Wagstaff building, St. Savours.

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Exeter buildings, Chelsea, were formerly notoriously unhealthy, and a focus for epidemic disease. The neighbourhood has been opened up, the privies trapped and washed daily. The Court yards and interiors of the houses were all lime-washed by the landlord in anticipation of the Cholera. These houses escaped the disease.

P. 87. Experience has abundantly proved that when Cholera has broken out in a foul and noisome locality, or in an overcrowded, ill ventilated, and dirty house, the best means of preventing the spread of the disease, and consequent loss of life, is to remove the inhabitants from it.

Sporadic Cholera.

Letter from
President General
Board of
Health, London,
to Lord Palmers-
ton, Secretary of
State, Home De-
partment, 1854.

Published in
1855.

P. 20.

The following are the dates and residences of the 16 fatal cases which occurred during the first six months of the present year, (1854.)

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These facts prove that the late epidemic, like that of 1849, was ushered in by a number of sporadic cases, scattered over the metropolis before the great outbreak took place.

FRENCH VIEW.

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FROM DICTIONNAIRE D'HYGIÈNE PUBLIQUE ET DE SALUBRITÉ,

BY AMBROISE TARDIEU,

PROFESSEUR AGRÉGÉ A LA FACULTÉ DE MÉDECINE DE PARIS.

Paris 1852.

Cholera.
P. 294.

Nous nous abstiendrons de soulever la question de la contagion du Cholera, non parceque nous la trouvons trop difficile, ou trop obscure, mais bien, au contraire, parceque à nos yeux, elle n'aurait jamais du être soulevée ; qu'elle est dès long temps résolue par les données communes à toutes les grandes épidémies, et par l'épidémie trop avérée de l'inanité des mesures anticontagionistes que l'on a voulu lui opposer.

.....

P. 296. Mais le plus souvent le Cholera, malgré la constance de sa direction principale, ne s'étend pas régulièrement de proche en proche ; il franchit tout d'un coup de grandes distances, arrive, d'un seul bord, au centre d'une province, pour revenir ensuite sur ses pas. Enfin signalons comme une circonstance fort importante l'apparition simultanée du fléau dans plusieurs localités séparées les unes des autres par des distances vraiment considérables, qui ont, dans quelques cas, dépassé 300 kilomètres.

P. 296. Il n'existe le plus souvent aucun rapport entre la direction du Choléra et celle des vents qui viennent des contrées envahies.— Ce n'est qu'exceptionnellement que cette coïncidence a été signalée.

P. 296. *Phénomènes précurseurs ou Concomitants.*—Il n'est presque pas d'Epidémie de Choléra qui n'ait été annoncé plus ou moins longtemps à l'avance par une constitution médicale particulière ordinairement caractérisée par une fréquence plus grande des affections intestinales, Diarrhée, Dyssenterie, Coliques, Gastralgie.

Causes.
P. 299. Quant aux causes du Choléra Epidémique, il est bon de rappeler que les maladies pestilentiellles ne sont pas de celles dont il soit donné à l'homme de pénétrer l'origine ni de connaître le principe. Là, suivant les expressions de M. Littié, tout est invisible, mystérieux, tout est produit par des puissances dont les effets seuls se révèlent à nous, et cependant il n'est pas de sujet sur lequel aient été accumulés plus de théories, plus d'hypothèses insoutenables. Pour nous, bien convaincu de la stérilité de semblables efforts, nous ne chercherons pas la cause du Choléra ; nous nous contenterons d'accepter, comme un fait, le principe pestilentiel lui-même, et de rapporter à ce principe le caractère épidémique, le mode de propagation et l'action terrible du fléau.

P. 300. Tout le monde est unanime à reconnaître que généralement, c'est dans les maisons obscures, sales, humides, des rues basses et peu accessibles au soleil et au vent, où une Population misérable est encombrée dans des logemens sales et resserrés que le Choléra a multiplié ses victimes.—L'entassement et la misère ont partout, en effet, contribué puissamment à étendre et à aggraver les ravages de l'Epidémie.

Quarantaines.
P. 301.

La première apparition du Choléra en Europe fut marquée, dans presque tous les Etats, par une extrême sévérité dans les mesures sanitaires, qui toutes s'inspiraient de la fausse Doctrine de la contagion.—On vit établir les Quarantaines les plus rigoureuses, et employer tous les moyens d'isolement et de séquestration, précautions aussi vaines que tyranniques, contre lesquelles s'étaient déjà révoltés l'instinct des peuples, et l'esprit libéral de quelques Gouvernemens, du Gouvernement Prussien, par exemple.—Aujourd'hui l'inutilité de ces mesures est reconnue dans les lieux mêmes où elles avaient été le plus durement mises en pratique; et l'on doit laisser dans un juste oubli les Quarantaines, les cordons sanitaires, qui ne doivent plus trouver place dans la prophylaxie du Choléra épidémique.

P. 303. Nous voulons consigner ici l'opinion développée, avec autant d'autorité que de talent, par M. Mécher, le savant rapporteur de la Commission, appelée à préparer la solution des Questions soumises à la conférence.—Nous indiquerons ensuite &c.

.....
“ On ne nie pas l'origine exotique du Choléra, elle est évidente, on ne nie pas non plus qu'il ne soit susceptible d'importation beaucoup de faits tendent à l'établir; mais on soutient qu'il est humainement impossible de rien faire d'utile et d'efficace contre un tel fléau; que ce fléau, marchant dans ses invasions à la façon des épidémies en général, tombe comme un orage sur les Pays qu'il atteint; qu'il y arrive, *on ne sait comment, sans avoir parcouru les pays intermédiaires, et, nullement, de proche en proche*, comme on paraît le croire, et comme il faudrait que cela fût pour que l'emploi des Quarantaines put être rationnellement indiqué, qui semble d'ailleurs s'être acclimaté en Europe, et se répandre à peu près partout.

“ On en conclut que les Quarantaines ne peuvent rien contre le Choléra, et que tandis qu'on les emploie, la maladie passant par dessus toutes les barrières qu'on lui oppose, arrive, ou NAÏT, *dans le pays, si même elle ne s'y trouvait déjà*.

“ A quoi bon, dès lors, imposer au commerce, imposer aux relations, en général, des gênes et des restrictions sans utilité? A quoi bon prendre des précautions, qui ne préservent de rien et qui occasionnent, en pure perte des sacrifices considérables? On va plus loin, on soutient que les Quarantaines, au lieu d'être, comme on le suppose, utiles et efficaces contre le Choléra, tendent à accroître les chances de l'avoir, et qu'elles en favorisent l'invasion, en retenant les passagers dans les Batimens ou les Lazarets, et en les y entassant quand il faudrait, au contraire, s'appliquer, par tous les moyens possibles, à les disperser.

“ L'hygiène, largement comprise et bien entendue, doit être la véritable préservation des peuples contre les fléaux morbides qui les menacent.—Vainement chercherait-on par l'isolement, la séquestration, et l'absence de tout contact, à s'en préserver; on n'y parviendrait pas si, en même temps, on ne s'appliquait à prévenir, et à détruire les foyers de corruption et d'infection à bord des navires, ou au sein des habitations; ces foyers sont la cause réelle, et véritablement puissante de la formation des maladies, s'ils ne les engendrent pas de toutes pièces, ils les favorisent tellement, que, sans eux, les maladies ne se développeraient probablement pas, ou ne se développeraient que difficilement; et, en tous cas, n'auraient que bien peu d'intensité, et ne tarderaient pas à s'éteindre.

P. 306. Cholera in France per Vessels from Malt or Coast of Africa (Tunis) where Cholera existed 5 days, dating from the day of departure, Passage, say 3 days, Quarantine 2 days.

OBSERVATIONS ON QUARANTINE

MORE ESPECIALLY AS APPLICABLE TO THE MAURITIUS.

Quarantine, in regard to its bearing on the commerce of the world, and the sanitary condition of countries, is a subject of considerable interest and sometimes of vital importance ; and when we consider the greatness of the interests at stake, that may be more or less affected by Quarantine Laws, viz, vast commercial enterprises, and the lives and well being of whole races of people, it may seem surprising, that no regular work on this subject should have been published.

In the following brief sketch it is not intended or presumed to give a complete history of Quarantine in all its bearings, but in compliance with an official request, I merely venture to offer for consideration such ideas and opinions as I may have formed from my own personal observation and experience, and from the information I may have acquired on the subject, and this more particularly in reference to the Colony of Mauritius.

In consequence of the great spread of commercial transactions all over the Globe, the vast wealth acquired by such widely extended operations, the importance in such transactions of rapid, prompt, and uninterrupted communication, and the heavy losses that may ensue from any untoward delay, Quarantine Laws are naturally enough regarded by numbers of persons with a very jealous eye ; and it has, in a great measure, become of late years, the fashion, as it were, to cry them down !— Yet, on the other hand, when we reflect calmly and impartially, on the fearful ravages that have been made amongst mankind, by the dreadful pestilential maladies, that have at different times devastated the world, the awful details of which have been but too graphically recorded in history, and the effects of which are, in all cases so severely felt, and so long and so painfully remembered, it is not to be wondered at that people should still cling to the laws of Quarantine, whether or not, they might in all instances prove quite effectual in warding off the dreaded evil of wide spreading disease, which, in its fatally destroying course, spares no class of persons and strikes so deeply at the root of man's dearest affections !

On account of the dread inspired by deadly maladies of a contagious or epidemic nature, Quarantine Laws and the power conferred by them have undoubtedly been very much abused, perhaps none more so ; and as of late years commerce increased so greatly and the advantages of rapid communication by steam became so evident and so generally appreciated, it was deemed advisable and necessary to modify the old Laws of Quarantine that were still in existence ; the example being first set by the British Government, and subsequently followed by those of other countries, after the establishment of steam communication to India and China via the Mediterranean and the Red Sea.

With this view, the principle was admitted of the period of quarantine to be performed by a vessel commencing from the date of departure from an infected Port instead of at the Port of arrival ; and therefore from that time, Steamers, or other vessels from Alexandria bound to Ports to the westward, had but a few days

to remain in quarantine, after reaching their destination ; by this system, the guarantee against infection being still complete from the calculation made as to the period of incubation of the malady to be guarded against, that is to say, the latent period of the disease, or the times during which it might remain dormant and then clearly appear after exposure to its influence. And this is the right principle to act on ; quarantine laws, in the present day, being no longer maintained in a way to unnecessarily trammel or embarrass trade and commerce and international communication but solely for the purpose of preventing or checking as far as possible the introduction or spreading of disease of a contagious or epidemic nature ; and when much disease is actually to be dealt with, the Quarantine Laws cannot be too carefully or strictly maintained, or too stringently enforced. The awful ravages of the Plague, though in years gone by, have not yet been forgotten, and European Governments still place quarantine restrictions on vessels arriving from the Levant, even with clean bills of Health, although this disease may now be considered as almost obsolete, only existing in Turkey and Egypt, in which Countries alone it has in modern times run its course epidemically ; Cairo has thus been occasionally nearly half depopulated by this direful scourge having about 80,000 persons, or one third of its population carried off at each visitation, to be however rapidly replaced by new comers who pour into the capital from the surrounding country.

It has often been asserted, that Quarantine Laws are very ineffectual in preventing the introduction, or checking the course of wide spreading disease, but however uncertain they may be in countries situated on large continents there can be no doubt of their importance and general efficacy, when applied to small Islands ; and I have no hesitation in saying, that during a residence of many years as Medical Officer at Seychelles, and especially at times when regular communication with this Colony has been kept up whilst contagious and epidemic diseases were prevailing here, that dependency owed its entire immunity from all such maladies, to the fact of the Quarantine Laws and regulations having been always carefully maintained and strictly carried out. The diseases mostly to be dreaded and chiefly to be guarded against here, are Cholera and Small-pox, the former most liable to be brought from Calcutta and the latter from Madras, to which may also be added Fever, from Bombay. Without entering into the question, whether or not Cholera may be strictly classed amongst contagious diseases, properly so called, yet as stated by that distinguished Hygienist, the eminent Dr. Snow, of London, "it is known to spread by human intercourse" as well as by laws that are as yet imperfectly understood, and there can be no doubt as to its being epidemic, and epidemic diseases are those that, when once they get a footing in any place, spread with the greatest rapidity and violence, there can be no doubt either, that Cholera may be considered endemic in India, at times spreading epidemically over different parts of that vast country ; and without dwelling on the question, whether endemic diseases ever become contagious, though in the case of Fever it would appear to have been solved affirmatively as long ago as the days of Pliny, who says, lib. XXV ch. 26, "*Et primo temporis ac loci vitio et ægri erant, et moriabantur : postea, curatio ipsa et contactus ægrorum vulgabat morbos*" yet, it is but too well known, and a fact too stubborn to be refuted, or swept away by the brush of sophistry, that Cholera in the Epidemic or Asiatic form has only been known to occur here, after the arrival of vessels from India with that fearful malady actually existing on board. Too much care therefore cannot be taken to endeavour, as far as may be possible, to prevent the introduction of so direful an epidemic ; epidemics being, as I have already intimated, the most insidious in their course, and the most difficult to combat. The Small-pox, for instance, is always contagious, but not always epidemic, and when it has spread epidemically, its ravages, especially before the introduction of vaccination, have sometimes been awful in the extreme, for example when first introduced into South America, by the Spaniards, this frightful disease carried off, in a short time, three millions of persons in Mexico alone.

The importance to Mauritius of a Quarantine Law, wise and just in its provisions, is very great indeed, on account of the risk to which the Island is exposed from its constant communication with that great focus of formidable disease, India, especially through the Cooly Ships, that bring down the large number of labourers required for the cultivation of the sugar cane and manufacture of sugar, the grand staple

and main support of the Colony. And on account of the position of Mauritius in regard to the Cooly Immigration, it is of course absolutely necessary to have a suitable Quarantine Station, or Lazaretto established in the best manner that local circumstances will allow ; at present, for this purpose, two Islets, Flat and Gabriel Islands situated about twelve miles from the main land are made use of provisionally, and the Government are I understand taking measures to have it determined, which Islands around Mauritius may be on the whole, the most desirable and best adapted, for the permanent Establishment. When once completed it would be very important that direct communication with the Lazaret should take place as seldom as possible, and then with the utmost care and precaution, and of course only through the medium of the proper authorities. For this purpose, it would be necessary to have provisions for several months stored on the Island occupied by the Lazaret, intelligence being in general transmitted by telegraph, if possible.

Quarantine Laws being often found to be very troublesome and unpleasant, it has always been more or less difficult to maintain them, but they nevertheless should be maintained strictly and impartially, otherwise abuses are liable to creep in, until the Law may become nearly a dead letter ; and to fully maintain such Laws, it has been found necessary to have recourse to the strong arm of military power, nothing but a Force of armed guards authorised to fire on any person violating the Law, could succeed in keeping a Lazaret properly secluded. Vessels in quarantine at anchor, should have a guard boat, armed, rowing about in their vicinity, day and night, or otherwise two or three guardians might be placed on board of a vessel, keeping watch by turns constantly.

With regard to the Laws on Quarantine actually in force in Mauritius they appear to have been carefully and wisely drawn up, but (and it may be more easy to analyse a Law than actually to frame one,) I should say, that a few of its clauses might be more clearly defined, for instance it was evidently intended, by Article 1st of Ordinance 38 of 1844, that no persons but those duly authorised for that purpose, should go near or within speaking distance of, or in any way whatsoever, communicate with vessels on their arrival, before being admitted to pratique ; and it is also evident, that by Article 13 of the same Ordinance, all communication, except through the proper officers, with a vessel placed in quarantine should cease for the time being ; yet, through the peculiar wording of Art. 44 of the same Ordinance, respecting the meaning of communication, the Law, though infringed in its spirit and purport, is liable frequently to be evaded.

When Cooly ships arrive with serious disease prevailing on board, it is desirable on every account, that the Coolies should be landed at the Quarantine Station with as little delay as possible. And a subject which I consider of great importance, (perhaps the greatest of all), is the condition and manner in which the Coolies are embarked in India, and the food furnished for the voyage should be of a kind to which they have been accustomed, as a total change of diet, would cause a tendency to be attacked by dysentery, or diarrhea, or Cholera, especially with those accustomed to diet with a large proportion of wheaten food, changed suddenly, for one composed chiefly of rice. It is most desirable, that the Coolies should all be shipped in good health, and that none should be allowed to embark sick, (which I fear however, from the information obtained from Cooly vessels, is too often the case), and if any fall sick on board before the vessel sails, they should be disembarked and returned to the Dépôt from whence they were shipped, for when a ship filled with Coolies sails with sickness on board, more especially cases of such diseases as Cholera or any kind of fever, how can it be expected but that such sickness should, in a crowded vessel, continue, or increase, throughout the voyage and the longer the transit, the worse the matter generally becomes ; it may sometimes happen, that in such cases, vessels after putting to sea, may get free from sickness, but this I am sure cannot be the rule, but the exception. When serious disease of an epidemic nature exists on board ships of War, I am aware that it is often checked soon after the vessels put to sea ; and during the first of the late campaigns in the Black sea, such was the case in most of the ships of our Fleet, in which the Cholera prevailed to a considerable extent ; but, yet even in two of these splendid and thoroughly cleanly and ventilated vessels, such was not the case, for the *Britannia* and another ship of the line, after putting to sea, were obliged to return to the land and disembark the sick, before the di-

sease became arrested in its progress. As regards our Cooly ships however, if due care be taken, that the Coolies be shipped in a healthy state, and that they be properly supplied with food suitable to their habits, during the voyage, I strongly believe, that they will generally arrive here in good condition, and that the Lazaret, would seldom have to be occupied by them.

In conclusion, as a striking example of the advantage of still maintaining Quarantine Laws, I will in a few words cite the remarkable case of H.M's. steamer *Eclair*. That ill fated vessel, some ten years ago, unfortunately contracted on the West coast of Africa, a most fearful fever, the most dreadful and deadly in its character that has ever been known, and the disease continued its ravages during the whole of the voyage home to England. The fever increasing on putting to sea, the vessel visited the Cape de Verde Islands, where the communication was most fatally granted, and the sick were landed, but the disease still progressing on board, as well as in the Hospital established on shore the vessel again went to sea and shortly after her departure, the Islands were ravaged by the terrible fever; the vessel called at Madeira, at which Island communication was refused, but where an Assistant Surgeon of the Navy, volunteered to go on board, and he perished a few days afterwards as had several other Medical Officers previously the ship at length arrived off Portsmouth, with the yellow flag flying, having then lost the Captain and nearly all the officers and the great majority of the crew, and most of those remaining being ill; then it became a question, whether or not this vessel should be admitted to pratique, and respecting which there was a difference of opinion, but fortunately, it was decided that the *Eclair* should be placed in strict Quarantine, and England was thus protected, and escaped from a most direful scourge, very few indeed of the unhappy crew of the ill fated steamer recovering, to tell the tale of the horrifying scene they had witnessed.

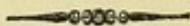
August 30th 1856.

Signed: W. FORD.

Health Officer of Port Louis.

Lastly, I may observe, that although Cholera in particular does not appear to be so strikingly arrested in its progress by measures of Hygiene as other maladies, yet; the squalid and the miserable are, even proportionally, the greatest sufferers by it; indeed, there can be no doubt that general Hygienic measures tend to arrest the progress of all contagious and epidemic diseases; and it is the reverse of creditable, that so little should be done in this respect, in the capital of so wealthy and flourishing a colony as Mauritius.

W. F.



ERRATA.

- Page 1, line 9, for "out of the Bell Buoy," read *out side of the Bell Buoy*.
- 10, line 10, for "what shall be done," read *what should be done*.
- 28, line 13, for "I think that one sentry was sufficient communication," read *I think that one sentry was sufficient to prevent communication, &c.*
- 57, line 27, for "I was laid up dangerously with a fever," read *I was laid up dangerously ill with a fever*.
- 59, line 23, for "for my part after I had no doubt," read *for my part I had no doubt*.
- 71, line 13, for "13th January 1856," read *12th January 1856*.
- 98, line 4, for "found the left lobe to be of the liver," read *found the left lobe of the liver*.
- 108, in the report of Dr. Montgomery, for "symph," read *lymph* passim.
- 109, line 11, for "Quarantine," read *quantity*,
- — line 28, for "chycle," read *chyle*.
- — last line but one, for "day heat," read *dry heat*,
- 110, fourth line, for "symph," read *lymph*.
- — last line but four, for "having no trace," read *leaving no trace*
- — line 4, for "Andromatic," read *Andromache*.
- 121, line 44, for "falty tissue," read *fatty tissue*.
- 123, for "nimor ailments," read *minor ailments*.

MR. SOUPER'S MOTION.

Page 128, PATHOLOGY OF CHOLERA, in the two lines which form this title, instead of "baly sully," say *Doctors Baly and Gulls*.

Page 129, 8th line, instead of the word "malicious," say *malarious*.

Same page, 5th Paragraph, 3rd line, instead of "that," say *but*.

Same page, 6th Paragraph, last line but one, instead of "huts," say *hulks*.

Page 130, strike out "Mediterranean Flat," standing on a title to a chapter which it is not.

Same page, 4th Paragraph, 1st line, instead of "Myson," say *Bryson*.

Page 132, 5th paragraph, 2nd line, instead of "Bunrus," say *Burrowes*.

— 133, 1st line, instead of "ashes," say *clothes*.

— 134, 1st paragraph, last line, instead of "exist," say *extend*.

Same page, 8th paragraph, 6th line, instead of "muriatic acid," say *minute solid*.

Page 136, the title placed between 5th and 6th paragraphs should not be where it is. It is the title to the whole of the extracts, and should have been placed where they begin, namely at page 128.

— 139, paragraph 2, instead of "rubhom," say *rudhom*.

— 153, 2nd paragraph, 18th line, say *subtil*, instead of "subite.

— — 19th line, instead of "measures," say *miasms*.

Page 16, line 29 of Report, for "13th January," read *12th January*.

— 14, line 19 of French Report, for "13th January," read *12th January*.



