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Henry A. Popes
1871

THE PLAGUE OF 1871.

COMPILED BY,

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CHAPLAIN OF BRITISH LEGATION, BUENOS AYRES.

(March 25th, 1870—June 8th, 1871.)

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TO THE READER.

I have no excuse for putting before you this Pamphlet.

One of the ends which I have in view is to provoke criticism, and thereby evoke truth. This is not the age for heroes, therefore I ought not to be called upon to affect the martyr. Under these circumstances, as soon as the statements contained in this Pamphlet shall be proved, as a whole, to be utterly valueless, I shall publicly recant.

You will easily surmise, and correctly, that I am not satisfied with the attitude of the native press; and that I fear lest a too great appreciation of the solemn side of this subject may at last prove detrimental to the cause of truth, and injurious to the future well-being of the city of Buenos Ayres.

T. E. A.

pam(H) /ASH

THE PLAGUE.

(Extracted from the STANDARD of April 30th, 1871).

The awful plague that is now drawing to a close will make a sad and memorable epoch in the annals of Buenos Ayres. It may be questioned whether modern times afford any parallel to its intensity, duration, and terrible effects. Those who have witnessed it in all its horrors are forcibly reminded of the Plague of London in 1665; those who merely read descriptions such as we subjoin herewith can only form a faint idea of the dreadful drama in which we have been both actors and spectators for some months past. Verily there is nothing more appalling than pestilence, nothing that shows more forcibly the frail tenure of human life, and nothing which brings out in such bold relief the noblest feelings of the better class of men and the hard-hearted selfishness of others. Every country, at one time or other, seems destined to pass through an ordeal of this kind. Barely two years ago an epidemic fever desolated Peru, causing more havoc than the previous earthquake.

The island of Mauritius, a little time before, had been almost depopulated. In 1857 the city of Montevideo suffered a visitation of yellow fever unprecedented in South America in its ravages. But all these were unequal to the plague of New Orleans in 1850, when the living could not bury the dead, and rafts were made for the piles of corpses and then let go adrift down the Mississippi. In the close of last year a similar epidemic broke out at Barcelona, the dreadful details of which are fresh in the memory of our readers. Until recently it was customary to regard Buenos Ayres as exempt from all manner of epidemics, and as far as the natural climate, air, and soil of the country are concerned it is unquestionably the healthiest place in the world. Nevertheless the Spanish settlers have always been so regardless of sanitary considerations that this city has at times become a pest-house. So far back as 1723 we are informed by historians of a fearful plague which caused such havoc

that large pits were made outside the town, and the corpses dragged thither tied to horses' tails for interment. In our own time, the yellow fever of 1858 carried off 600 people, the cholera of 1867-8 over 5,000, and since then every summer has brought us a menace of one or other epidemic. At the commencement of the present year our population was a little over 180,000 souls: of these about two-thirds fled during the epidemic, more than 20,000 others perished, and at one period while there hardly remained 40,000 people in town, the number of sick exceeded 7,000, and the mortality ranged from 400 to 600 per day—more than 1 per cent. of the inhabitants.

To describe the plague as we have seen it, in all its various phases, we shall divide the subject into ten chapters.

I.

ORIGIN AND CAUSES.

Some Paraguayan prisoners of war who returned to Paraguay last year, on landing at Asuncion, were found to be suffering from yellow fever, and many of the cases proved fatal. The foul state of that city, and exhausted condition of the Paraguayans after the sufferings of the war, were peculiarly favorable for any epidemic, and speedily a fever broke out, which the physicians declared to be 'bilious ichtheroid.' Hundreds of persons perished, thousands fled to the country districts, but the disease did not prove of the malignant character it afterwards assumed in other places. The English doctors were very suc-

cessful in their treatment—chiefly mustard baths, doses of quinine, &c. The infection next spread to Corrientes, and here it made fearful ravages, most of the physicians and apothecaries being among the victims, besides one fourth of the inhabitants. The hot season had already set in, and although the epidemic was within 48 hours of our city no efforts had been made to guard against it. A nominal quarantine was ordered, similar to that of 1870. A passenger in confinement at the lazaretto of Ensenada borrowed a horse, rode into town, took to his bed, recovered, but his family died, then the people next door; and so it spread, till involving the whole parish of San Telmo, the dirtiest and most populous in the city.

At the same time, a vessel with immigrants from Genoa, and which touched at Barcelona, had become infected there: the captain threw overboard 14 passengers who had died of the fever, but on entering our port he presented only his papers from Genoa, and landed his passengers, many of whom were doubtless infected.

Moreover, be it remembered that the seeds of yellow fever had been lurking in our city since 1870, when 100 persons perished about the Roma Hotel.

The most powerful causes, however, for the development of the plague were to be found in the abominable filth of the city and its surroundings. The smell of the Riachuelo in December had been so horribly nauseous that in various parts of town ladies and people of

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weak constitutions were seized with vomiting, when the wind blew from the south. Even the streets newly paved, in the outlets, gave forth a dreadful stench after every shower of rain, for they had all been laid down with 'vasura,' or stuff from the scavengers' carts. In fact, the whole city steamed like a dunghill whenever a hot sun came after a fall of rain.

That the recent summer has been the hottest for many years is evidenced, among other things, by the number of mad dogs in December and January, a nuisance previously unknown. An unusually hot sun was playing for some months on a soil now in fermentation, for the water supply had caused a much increased consumption of water in the town, and as it was prohibited to throw water in the streets, and there being no drainage, the people were obliged to turn it into old wells, with which the various parts of the city are so honeycombed that as many as fifteen or sixteen are found when a site is being cleared for a house. Nay, it sometimes happens that a lady falls through her parlour floor, and finds an old well (unfilled) under the carpet. While the city was fermenting and steaming, the water of the River Plate was so poisoned by the liquid from the Riachuelo that the dead fish covered the roadstead and river as high as Palermo; yet this same water was what the citizens of Buenos Ayres had to drink.

Meantime, so noxious and deadly were the vapours that rose from the ground that wherever it was opened nausea and sickness followed. In Paseo Julio the foreman of Mr. Wheel-

wright, in driving down posts for the new central terminus, was taken ill a few days after his arrival, and the works were suspended. In the Plaza Once de Setiembre some men were engaged by Mr. N. to make a wall, after digging through several layers of 'vasura' for a foundation, were taken ill and sent to hospital.

The air was foul and sickening; the water was corrupted; the earth was reeking with abomination.

The plague came, and it found the place ripe for destruction.

II.

JANUARY.—THE OUTBREAK.

In the first week of last January the plague entered the city by the 'Barrio San Telmo;' but at first its existence was only felt by a few Italians, who were utterly ignorant of the real character of their guest. Half a dozen peons or washerwomen were taken away daily from their cares; their faces were not missed; others followed the same journey to the cemetery; and at last a rumour spread that the fever was making ravages in San Telmo. In medical circles it was cautiously whispered, "We have yellow fever amongst us." But not until the close of the month, when nearly two hundred victims had fallen, did anyone dare publicly to give the alarm. Dr. Golfarini and others hastened indignantly to contradict the rumour, and comfort the public mind: "it was only the fall of the leaf—the unhealthy season, when we must not be surprised to see the mortality somewhat above the average."

Had the alarm been then properly sounded by the authorities, the medical men, the clergy, and the press, it would have stimulated everyone to flush out the incipient danger, and thereby saved thousands of lives.

Physicians of every calibre discussed the nature of the epidemic—some declaring it yellow fever, others typhoid, others ichtheroid typhus, etc. Meantime, the poor Italians of San Telmo continued to die, now a dozen daily, and the plague was scattering its seeds, without fear of interruption, in all the purlieus of the district. Even at this time, if an effort had been made to put a cordon around the infected quarter, the disease could have been effectually hemmed in, and prevented from spreading through town. The sickness, from the outset, was of a most fatal character, nearly all that were attacked dying. The symptoms were like those of yellow fever: pains in the head and spine, burning skin, retention of urine, vomit, and discoloration of the body after death; the only remarkable difference was the length of time, which, in the West Indies or Brazil rarely passes twenty-four hours, but here lasted from five to ten days.

All this time the smell of the Riachuelo made everyone in town sick. About San Telmo and the south end it was pestilential; but the saladeros continued working, and the river at Barracas literally ran blood. The arrival of Italian immigrants abated nothing, averaging 100 daily; and these poor people were packed into the over-crowded tenement houses

and dens, where lodging is given for one paper dollar (2d.) per night.

These tenement houses, or as they are called 'conventillos,' are a constant menace to public health, and strange to say have mostly sprung up since the cholera of 1867. The police report shows that there are 91 in the single parish of Socorro, and probably over 400 in all the city. They are the most profitable business imaginable, yielding 10 or 15 per cent. monthly on their cost. They consist generally of a double row of rooms, with a narrow court-yard between; and here, in a space of 10 x 60 yards, are agglomerated several hundred persons of the lowest class, remarkable for a total absence of cleanliness in their persons and habitations.

The Municipality of Buenos Ayres has never taken cognizance of the wants and sufferings of this class. There is no Poor Asylum. The Immigrants' Home is utterly insufficient for the purpose, and this is perhaps no less owing to the negligence of the authorities than to a deficient Municipal revenue. Suffice it to say, that the total income of the Municipality ranges under 20 millions mpc., say £160,000, or about one-third of the average revenue per head in European cities. Even this income has been of late considerably reduced by the injudicious abolition of the Municipal Lottery, without providing an adequate source of revenue in its stead. One branch of income has indeed increased, that of licenses for interment, so much so that two cemeteries are now filled, and a third has just been opened.

Up to the end of January no per-

sons of note had succumbed to the fever, and it was the general impression that its ravages would be confined to San Telmo; hence no precautionary measures were taken.

III.

FEBRUARY. —ITS PROGRESS.

In the beginning of this month the registered deaths from the epidemic did not exceed 20 daily, but the weather continued very hot, the smell from the Riachuelo grew worse, and speedily the mortality was doubled. Nevertheless, the preparations for Carnival, in the north end of the town, engrossed public attention, and people tried to ignore the pestilence, as if thereby to avoid its effects. Flags, garlands, illuminations, and all the frippery of masques were a strange contrast to the piles of coffins at the South Cemetery. The Carnival was not brilliant, there being numbers of families who had already fled to the suburbs; the theatres were, however, crowded. On the first day of Carnival the venerable Irish pastor, Father Fahey, died, having taken the contagion at the bed-side of an Italian woman in San Telmo. About the same time we experienced another serious loss in the old and respected Dr. Bosch; Don Bernabe Molina, a rich native capitalist, and some few others also died about this period.

On Ash Wednesday the death-roll increased, but still the fever was limited to the locality where it had originated. Various measures were proposed, amongst others the establishment of a cordon around the parish of San Telmo. Fires were

now lighted in the streets at night time, and carts with tar disinfected the pavements. It was proposed to move the hospital, and to rent the 'Sanitario Modelo.' A municipal lazaretto was established in the outskirts, and the South cemetery was exclusively set apart for those who died from yellow fever. Still it must not be considered that at this period the plague domineered the city.

On the 22nd of February the first case of yellow fever outside the parish of San Telmo occurred—it took place in the Calle Paraguay, and near to the Calle Florida. This caused renewed alarm. The following days other cases took place in streets in the northern portion of the town, and it was observed by the Medical Board that when the fever spread from San Telmo it first located itself in streets through which the 'terceros,' or street floods, ran.

The mortality now increased rapidly, averaging till the close of the month of February forty to fifty daily. The Municipality adopted all the sanitary measures in its power. Householders were obliged to clean and whitewash their premises, fines were imposed, parish committees formed, and the streets cleaned with unusual regularity; 'vasura' carts went round the city twice a day—there was a healthy stir, yet the fever advanced.

IV.

MARCH.—IT RAGES.

The Plague spread with such virulence and fury that it was now manifest there were worse times in store

for us. The papers tried to mitigate the bad news by publishing less than the real returns; thus on one day we knew of 109 interments, but the published statement next day was only 43. The Government and public authorities were indefatigable in their efforts to adopt prompt measures for the exigency. A lazaretto was established, near the Plaza Once de Setiembre. Meantime the grave diggers at the South cemetery were unable to keep pace with the mortality, and as many as 70 coffins were one night left over-ground; by dint, however, of higher wages a larger number of workmen was obtained, who, in gangs of day and night service, aided by the moonlight, succeeded in getting through their dismal work.

In the middle of March the plague may be said to have become general. The parish of Socorro, considered one of the healthiest in the city, was infected. In Calle Callao, our widest street, numerous cases occurred, and the most airy and best ventilated parts of Buenos Ayres were the first and most severely attacked, while the centre for the time escaped. About this time the Irish Sisters of Mercy were obliged to close their school, owing to a yellow fever case having been taken to the Irish Hospital. Three days subsequently Governor Castro closed all the schools in town.

The mortality rate averaged for the first week of March 70 daily, and on the 8th of March it rose to 115. Physicians recommended every one who could to leave the city. Those whose business required their pre-

sence in town were advised to sleep in the suburbs. The trains were crowded—all the towns and villages adjoining the railways were thronged—and at night time the city was deserted. It was estimated in the middle of March that over one hundred thousand persons had left Buenos Ayres; yet still the mortality increased to a most gigantic degree.

The police authorities published a notice calling on the public to whitewash every house, and offering lime and coal-tar gratis to all applicants. The city papers, especially the *STANDARD*, had been for some time calling for energetic measures, in the shape of domiciliary visits of inspection. Some of the 'conventillos' were found in a shocking condition: in one case the proprietor had been accumulating 'vasura' for three months, and it took 30 carts to remove the mass of reeking abomination: the proprietor and all his family had already died of the infection.

Some of the leading journalists and lawyers at this juncture convoked a meeting in the Plaza Victoria, at which a Popular Committee was formed, under the auspices of Dr. Roque Perez and D. Hector Varela; deputations then proceeded to the National and Provincial Governments, and obtained both from President Sarmiento and Governor Castro every assurance of co-operation and support. The former prohibited the landing of European emigrants, the latter at once opened a credit of ten millions for the Municipality; and measures were taken for the inspection of the 'conventillos,' and providing accommodation for the working classes.

The panic had unhappily communicated itself to all classes, and it was said more than half the physicians had fled. Those who remained were overburdened with work: a dozen of these brave men were destined to succumb to their spirit of devotion. The few English doctors stood their ground manfully, and were at one time or other stricken down on the bed of sickness, but fortunately recovered. And here we must also pass a high eulogium on the Irish Nuns, the French Sisters of Charity, and the clergy of the English, Irish, Scotch, and American congregations. Nothing could exceed their heroism, and philanthropy. Our narrow limits would not suffice to recite even a portion of their labors, or enumerate the wonderful tales, sadder and stranger than any romance of fiction, that are in the mouths of all; suffice it to say, that they fulfilled their duty in a manner worthy of their sacred office.

It was now remarked that still the epidemic followed the track of the 'terceros,' namely, those streets which had been flooded in March of last year, when some people were drowned. The houses in those parts had been mostly left in a filthy condition, the inhabitants returning to them after the floods had subsided, while piles of rotten clothing, &c., remained infesting the locality for some time after. No wonder the seeds of disease lingered here. And now the month of March again brought heavy rains; the Tercero rose, and it is said that some of the people sick of the fever were drowned in their beds. The Rev. Mr. Lett attended some poor English people who had

18 inches of water under their beds. Those whose condition permitted were taken out of the houses, and put on the azotea roofs to dry. The Lazaretto was now full, but the poorer people had such a horror of it that its occupants were only those removed thither by the police; it was a by-word that no one left the place alive, and even the most wretched denizens of the 'conventillos' preferred dying amid squalor and misery to being sent to what they looked on as the prelude to the cemetery.

The superstition that had got hold of this class of people was incredible. They fancied that the priests and doctors were killing them, by throwing powders in the streets every night. They refused the ordinary medical assistance, and in some cases adopted the most ridiculous remedies, such as applying the entrails of chickens to the stomach of the sick persons, &c. More than once it happened to clergymen and doctors that the patient's friends would beg them not to poison him. Oftener still the sick would allow themselves to die rather than spend a few dollars; thus an Italian in Calle Defensa was ordered ice and champagne, being almost convalescent, but he contented himself with the ice, and when found dead, a couple of days afterwards, his mattress was cut open, and revealed a number of banknotes said to amount to £800.

At this time the effect of the epidemic was felt by the Banks, thousands of Italians drawing out their savings so as to secure same for their families, in case they should them-

selves fall victims. Some of the poor fellows, whose relatives were in Europe, carried the money about them; they fell sick, were taken to the Lazaretto, and their clothes burned. Still the withdrawal of deposits continued, and none of the banks now discounted; even the commercial houses had mostly stopped selling to dealers, fearing that they should die. The crisis that ensued was so great that 300 bills were protested in one day.

The mortality which had been at first almost solely of Italians now embraced all trades and nationalities. Bakers and printers suffered very heavily, and three Spanish newspapers had to close for want of hands. In one office as many as 6 or 7 men fell sick in a day. Of the newspaper carriers no fewer than 16 died. It was remarkable that women and children seemed almost to escape the plague, the men forming perhaps nine-tenths of the whole number. Some doctors noted that very few deaths occurred in houses of 'altos,' or upper storeys, but then it must be remembered that (especially in the poorer districts) most of the houses are merely ground floors.

Towards the close of this month, from what cause is inexplicable, for a few days the mortality returns showed a diminution. It was hoped the worst was over, and some returned to town. Vain dream! the last week of March the deaths reached three hundred and fifty per day, and swept from amongst us some of our representative men, amongst others Roque Perez, Lopez Torres, Dr. Muñiz, Dr. French and others.

A second panic, greater than the first, now ensued. Waggon, carts, and every kind of vehicle were seized at any price to convey fugitives and furniture to the country. Some went with canvas tents, others in covered bullock carts, others took the railways to remotest points, and many went away to ranchos on the Indian frontier. It was like as if the people were flying from a bombardment. But even flight was not always safety; many persons who had left town apparently in good health were seized with the fatal symptoms two days after, and died, without medical attendance.

Meantime the sufferings of the poorer classes in town were great, and at the invitation of the Comision Popular the mercantile community and general public came forward generously with donations. The English merchants, besides gifts of blankets, &c., made up large sums, in the first instance for the distressed of our countrymen, and then some thousands of pounds for the general sick poor. The native capitalists incurred a well-merited censure from the Press for their ill-timed parsimony: there were only a few exceptions to the rule. The Comision Popular sent one of its members (Mr. Thomas Armstrong, jun.) to raise subscriptions in the camp towns, and the appeal was everywhere worthily responded to.

The close of March witnessed a remarkable fall of the river, such as not seen for many years previous; this laid bare a mud-bank at the mouth of the Riachuelo, the smell from which caused suddenly an ap-

falling mortality at the Boca: the bulk of the inhabitants fled in all directions, many of them in sailing craft towards San Fernando: on board these vessels several deaths occurred soon after. The eminent engineer, Mr. Revy, proceeded to examine the mud-bank in question, but on probing it to a depth of 15 feet, he and his men were taken ill, and had to abandon the task.

Death was by this time making awful havoc in the 'conventillos;' as many as 70 corpses taken out of one. It was quite common for the police to find dead bodies in abandoned tenements: the putrid remains were hurried off to the 'fosse' for the uncoffined poor. At first these appeared in the death list as N. N., but afterwards they were not counted at all. The scavenger carts were employed in this service, and we heard of one breaking down from which eight corpses were taken.

Scenes of this kind drove numbers of people out of their wits; they are now raving lunatics in the Convalecencia. Sadder still is it to say that several were buried so hastily as to cause much apprehension on this head. We know of a confectioner who says he broke from his coffin on the way to the cemetery, and was so horrified that he nearly fainted: then he entered a pulperia and got a glass of brandy, adding "I cannot pay you, for I have just escaped from my coffin." The pulpero and by-standers ran away horrified. Another man only came to in the South cemetery, perhaps owing to the jolting of the cart. He pushed aside one of the slender boards of his coffin, and as-

tonished the grave-diggers. The poor fellow died in earnest three days later.

The grave-diggers were again unable to get through their work, and for some nights the smell from the cemetery was so dreadful that the neighbors petitioned Governor Castro, who appointed a committee to see that henceforth no dead be left over till the next day. Whoever, at this time, had occasion to visit the cemetery brought away the most horrifying tales, and rarely did anyone venture there a second time. Many among our own little community, in paying the last tribute to the remains of a friend or relative, took the contagion, came home, sickened, and died. At last the Municipality wisely published an edict that no more than two persons could attend any funeral.

The numberless incidents that are every day related are a mixture of the ludicrous and painful, distressing to repeat. Now it is a street porter with a coffin on his head, who enters a grog shop, puts his coffin on the counter, drinks till he falls on the floor, and then is carted away with his coffin. Another time a man is riding out of town at dusk, his horse starts: two corpses rolled up in their bed clothes are lying in the ditch. Again, we hear of a man on his death-bed running out in his night-gown with an axe in his hand, and never since heard of. One of the engine drivers of the Northern Railway in like manner, when in his agony, rushed out of his house, and was met by a comrade. "I am going to catch my train," said he. "All

right," said the other, "leave the train to me." He took the poor fellow home, but he lived only two hours.

Dreadful instances of cruelty have also come to our knowledge. For example, an Italian was taken ill in a factory, and turned into the street: the poor fellow rambled a short way, and died on the pavement, where his body lay several hours. The owner of the factory, his son, and the other five operatives—all Italians, were dead in three days! In some cases people who deserted their friends fled to the camp towns, and there succumbed to the dread evil.

The Irish nuns one evening returning home were attracted by a dog howling most piteously at a door, and on entering found a poor old woman who had been deserted by all, and seemed beyond hope, but after a few days' treatment she recovered. Sometimes in their morning rounds they found the patient of the previous day dead, and the house abandoned. Amid all the desolation and gloom of this period it was like a gleam of sunshine to see the French and Irish Sisters noiselessly moving about on their heavenly mission, soothing the last hours of many, and sometimes rescuing others from the jaws of death, who had been forsaken by friends and kindred. We refuse credence to the stories of wives deserting their husbands, mothers their children, and such like; as yet no well authenticated cases have come under our notice, but it is unquestionable that near relatives have closed their doors to the cry of a sick and suffering friend.

We can turn from such cruel and debasing records to a recital of numberless heroic instances of devotion and self sacrifice. All that we read in history, of the noblest and best actions of men, has been fully equalled among our own small foreign community, in response to the claims of father, brother, or friend, in this supreme moment.

Among the death roll we give below is the name of a gentleman for many years connected with the first mercantile houses of Buenos Ayres, and who was stricken down simultaneously with his wife. Their cases were so malignant that six nurses in succession died while attending on them, and finally Miss G., a young lady of good family and education, volunteered to the post of danger, and also fell a victim. Mr. S. had the consolation in his last moments to find by his bedside a friend who promised to protect his children. His wife survived him but a few days, and of the four friends who followed her coffin to the grave two died soon after.

The English clergymen, Protestant and Catholic, had often to act as nurses, and many a parishioner died in their arms, leaning his weary head upon the breast of the last true friend left him in this world, the Minister of Religion. Many a touching story of this kind is related by Canon Dillon, Rev. John Leahy, Rev. Mr. M'Namara, and the English chaplains, Mr. Lett and Mr. Ash. The latter had at one time 120 sick on their list, of whom they had to follow three-fourths to the cemetery. The Scotch pastor had already lost 70 of

his community. Father Leahy's list was still heavier: and even the American clergyman, Mr. Jackson, had his hands full. With one exception, all of the above-named were stricken with the fever, some twice; but, thank God, all have recovered.

Among the English and American residents several went from house to house, visiting the sick, and passing night after night at their bedsides, until, at last, some of them succumbed from exhaustion and the fever combined. Invaluable services were rendered by Mr. Nash, and others, who had seen yellow fever in the Gulf of Mexico.

Nevertheless, it happened that some English people were lying ill with no one to attend them, and no means of making their condition known. In one case a gentleman was attended by his wife alone, after the other lodgers had fled, and the wife then fell sick. Both were by chance discovered by a friend, who speedily sent them a physician and an English clergyman. The husband died.

At this time Mr. H. G. Mac Donnell, H. B. M. Chargé d'Affaires, published a notice that he would assist the sick and orphans recommended to his care: in some cases we knew him personally to send a doctor to attend people. The British Hospital Committee published another notice, regretting that the institution could not receive epidemic patients.

A clamor was raised in one of the native papers that the priests of Buenos Ayres were not doing their duty; Canon Dillon, although a foreigner, repelled the insinuation, showing that numbers of the native and Italian

priests had already perished (we believe the number is 49), and volunteering in his own case, both as a clergyman and a citizen. He was enrolled, along with Messrs. Gowland and others, on the Popular Committee, and worked indefatigably till the contagion seized him also. He is now recovering.

The doctors were now nearly all exhausted; out of 130 on the list of the Faculty, only 18 remained—the rest being sick, dead, or missing!

The Popular Committee rendered signal service by the distribution of alms, medicine, &c. In every parish an apothecary's shop and a soup kitchen were open gratis for the poor. Coffins were also provided gratis; and among the applications to the Committee some shocking cases are mentioned. On one occasion a man applied for a coffin for his cousin, and on being asked "When did he die?" replied "He is not dead yet, but I want a coffin for him, and an order for the money he has." The Committee desired him go back and mind the sick man, but he fled to the country, leaving the cousin to die, and the money was stolen by some of the neighbors. Another time a man asked for a coffin for some relative, when it resulted that he had got one for the same person two days before; they were drinking, and forgot to bury the dead person, till another of their number died, "And now we are going to bury both together."

The panic among the Italians from the first had caused numbers to embark for Europe. The Genoese Co. sold 5,200 tickets in 15 days. It was said that 70 in one vessel and 35 in

another had perished of the plague between this port and Rio Janeiro. The Royal Mail steamer refused 2nd class passengers, and happily avoided contagion. Some distressing cases occurred of parties coming in from the camp to embark for Europe, catching the fever, and dying the day the packet sailed.

The mortality this month was fully 11,000; the registered number was less than half, but then the 'fosse' was not counted. The Government was hastily preparing the new cemetery of the Chacarita, to which a line of tramway was laid down, and the steam omnibuses of the Western Railway were ordered for the new special service of the conveyance of the dead.

V.

APRIL.—HOLY WEEK.

Gloom and desolation now reigned throughout the city. The streets were silent and deserted, except where a hearse appeared, followed by a solitary coach. From nearly every door a piece of crape hung, the windows of the houses open, sometimes also the doors, but no signs of life within. The sun shone brightly, but the air was heavy with the odour of Death. No carts were in the streets, no carriages on the stands, no porters or laborers at work, no sound of children's voices, not even a dog's bark to break the awful silence. In Calle Florida, the most fashionable of our streets, you might almost have fired grape-shot at noon-day without hitting anyone. In the south end you might walk through several

blocks of deserted houses, without meeting a living being. The windows all open, the furniture untouched, for even that was supposed infected. In the central streets you met by chance a cart or furniture van, driven by a policeman, with a human body going to the Lazaretto or the cemetery. Again you saw a cart with a pile of empty coffins, and a hawker selling them as he would fruit or vegetables: it was not uncommon to see one of these fellows sit down on a door-step, after selling a coffin, and begin to smoke, waiting till some old woman inside should die that he might dispose of another. These coffins were made merely of four pine boards put together, with a daub of black paint. It was said that they were made to answer several times, whenever there was no one to accompany the deceased to the cemetery; the screws were drawn, and the corpse committed to the clay.

Holy Week was now a second time one of mourning and pestilence (it having been the worst of the cholera in 1867). The mortality was now returned as 400 per day, but stated by the grave diggers at a thousand. The usual ceremonies of the Catholic Church in this solemn season were left unperformed, and everyone who could left town. The hotels were closed, as well as the chief coffee-houses; even at the Clubs the members could not get food; the tramways stopped half their trains, and it was agitated to stop the railways; the Government ordered the telegraph offices to remove to Flores. In a word, the city was like a ship abandoned at sea.

The Popular Committee published a circular in these words—

“There are barely 30,000 people left in town, of whom 7,000 are sick, and the death rate is from 400 to 500 daily.”

VI.

BLACK MONDAY.—CLOSING THE ‘STANDARD!’

Easter Monday, April 10th, the plague reached its climax: 540 ‘boletos’ for interment between sunrise and sunset. The grave diggers toiled on by the light of lanterns, and more than a thousand were interred on that day. Here it is worth relating that of 360 grave diggers employed not one died of the fever.

No pen can describe the aspect of Buenos Ayres on this mournful day. Hearses and coffins passed you every moment. The shops were closed, and bore the impressive notice “Closed till the plague is over.” Even the town clock of the Cabildo was down, as if there were no one to wind it up. Notices on the street corners called for policemen, the force having dwindled down from death and desertion.

On entering the STANDARD office we found but three men; the rest were sick or missing. We began as usual our labors, as though our five-and-twenty hands were there; but as the day wore on the solitude grew oppressive, and all efforts to get workmen were in vain. At twelve o’clock one of our three men was taken sick: an hour later the foreman had to go, as some of his family were down. We were left with two men,

and had just sufficient strength to get out the paper of Tuesday, the 11th, taking leave of our readers for a fortnight. These are the simple facts of the case: and we feel our readers will acquit us of any dereliction of duty, and sympathize with us in a misfortune that interrupted our issue for the first time in ten years. Happily, all the compositors who were sick, though some are still very weak, have recovered. It is needless to remark that native compositors would be almost useless in our emergency, if even they were to be had at the time. All the city papers closed except four, and these continued, notwithstanding the declaration of 20 days’ vacation by order of Government.

All through Easter week the mortality continued at an appalling figure—till the South Cemetery was filled. The Comision Popular requested Governor Castro to open the Chacarita, and suggested that a layer of lime be laid over the surface of the one now closed. How many warm hearts that have ceased from beating lie buried there in one mass! How many busy brains that have ceased to toil now rest beneath that covering of lime! How many dear and kind friends of yours, readers, and of our own, now sleep their last slumber on that lowly hill-side.

VII.

THE HARVEST OF DEATH.

More than 22,000 people had been interred in the South Cemetery within the past three months, when the gates were closed, and the grave diggers

marched away in procession to their new scene of operations at the Chacarita.

The aspect of the city by night was even more awe-inspiring than by day. The silence was rarely broken but by the hollow sound of vehicles taking off the dead, or the tinkling of a little bell, as the Blessed Sacrament was conveyed to the dying. Fires might be seen here and there—the furniture, &c., of infected houses that the police burned in the streets and courtyards. Watering carts made the rounds, scattering disinfectants, such as coal-tar; but the plague seemed to mock such remedies, for Death was busy in every house where any inhabitants yet remained.

At the eleventh hour the authorities set about making a clearance of the 'conventillos,' and this was not effected without some scenes of riot. Thousands of people of the lowest classes were packed into railway waggons, and sent out to San Martin, four leagues from town, where 100 wooden huts had been constructed for the purpose. The Western Railway also set apart some hundreds of goods waggons, which were formed into encampments near the stations of Moron, Merlo, and Moreno. The Southern Railway had already set the example. At San Martin fifteen deaths occurred immediately, and the people coming short of supplies began to desert the huts, and make their way back to the city.

Numerous robberies now occurred throughout town, and the police force was so reduced that, even impressing the firemen and serenos, they were unable to protect the numberless de-

serted houses, where valuable furniture had been left, in many cases the hall-door lying open. Mr. O'Gorman, however, did his best, locking up many of the houses, and sending the police, armed with carbines, on patrol night and day. Daring robberies were committed in noonday in this manner:—Furniture vans came up to the house, and carted off the furniture as if it were going out to the camp. In one case the thief had the audacity to call on the person next door and borrow \$1000 to pay the cartmen, as Sr. Gomez (the owner, who was at Moron,) had forgotten to give him the money. Another case was that of a gentleman who happened to come into town, and found two waggons before his door filled with his furniture. Going inside, he found two porters lying wounded in the courtyard, and others fighting, for the burglars had got drunk, and began to beat each other with the bottles.

The railways all this time carried thousands of passengers daily, and long trains of baggage, furniture, and lumber for building shanties; yet no serious accidents occurred in the transit.

VIII.

IT DIMINISHES.

On the 16th of April, the plague having now run 100 days, it began visibly to decline, the mortality soon falling to one half. It is true the population was reduced to one-fourth. Still we were glad to hail a glimpse of sunshine breaking through the clouds. Many people began to come

into town, to see how affairs were. Some found their servants dead, others their clerks gone mad, raving about collins; many are still ignorant of the fate of their servants left behind, who are probably in some part of the camp. For a long time there must be much uncertainty about hundreds of missing people. Some rich city residents found their houses occupied by numbers of squalid refugees from San Telmo, lying on the gilded sofas and loungers. If they enquired about their neighbors they learned this one was dead, that gone away &c.: the poor lady next door was removed in a 'vasura' cart, the store-keeper at the corner died, so did the baker and butcher: the milkmen had long since disappeared, shunning the doomed city.

By this time all the camp towns were crowded, especially Lujan, Mercedes, Chivilcoy, and every suburb or place along the lines of railway. You met familiar faces everywhere—the Foreign Ministers and Consuls, the city dealers, the merchant princes. German barraqueros, French tailors, even Italian organ-grinders, everywhere. Sportsmen with dog and gun wandered over the green camps, bagging prodigious numbers of game, for never have wild duck been so plenty since 1859. The rents paid for the poorest accommodation were fabulous, so high as \$10,000 (£80) for a room.

Every evening as the trains arrived from the city the first question was "How many to-day?" and then the sickening news that one or other friend was gone. Sometimes, happily, rumor proved incorrect, and many

who are now alive were mourned as among the dead.

IX.

THE RESUSCITATION.

During the past week we can note a great improvement in the look of things, and the mortality is little over 100 daily. We look around, indeed, and see many doors closed; we miss old friends, and the city looks as if Herculaneum or Pompeii were being gradually re-peopled. Besides one-eighth of our population that has perished, an equal number will certainly be lost to us by those who have left or are leaving the country, or else moving away from Buenos Ayres to another locality.

It is impossible to give an accurate return of the deaths, but from all that has come under our knowledge, after a most careful study not to exaggerate, we incline to put down the figures thus—

January	200
February	1,000
March	11,000
April	14,000
	<hr/>
	26,200

Taking the order of nationalities it would seem to be—

Italians	11,000
Argentines	8,000
Spaniards	3,500
French	2,200
English	600
Germans	300
Various	600
	<hr/>
	26,200

When we consider that the loss of the German army in the last campaign is returned at 150,000 killed, out of

1½ million men, or 10 per cent., we find the plague in Buenos Ayres has caused much greater relative mortality, namely 13 per cent!

Let us pray the Almighty to spare us from another visitation of this awful kind, and hope the worst is past.

X.

CONCLUSIONS.

The immediate effects of the plague will be—

1st. The diminution of our population by one-fourth.

2nd. The fall of house property, by one-third.

3rd. The rapid building of suburbs and tramways.

4th. Great confusion for some time in business.

5th. Splendid fortunes for the lawyers—winding up testamentary estates.

6th. Great profits to the Provincial Bank out of moneys unclaimed.

Before concluding we think a special meed of praise is due to the city of Montevideo, which has sent up £10,000 to the relief of our poor. Also to the French and Irish nuns, the various clergymen, the Comision Popular, the English and other doctors who bravely stood their ground, and to the numberless charitable persons who stood by their friends at all hazard.

A far greater tribute still is due to those heroic men and women who fell nobly in their self-imposed task, and whose names we are unable to give, but which we trust are recorded in the Book of Life.]

We offer our warmest congratulations to the friends who have survived this awful crisis, and fervently thank the Giver of all Good for sparing us when so many more worthy were taken away.

THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT AND THE PLAGUE STATISTICS.

(Extracted from the STANDARD of May 15th, 1871).

Yesterday we received from the Minister of the Interior, Don Luis V. Varela, a note informing us that, under date of May 4, 1871, the Argentine Government had ceased to subscribe for 200 packet editions of the STANDARD, four daily papers, and six weeklies.

We attribute all this to the publication of our plague statistics. The loss to us is more moral than pecuniary, inasmuch as the Argentine consuls of any note have always been subscribers to the STANDARD. Our colleagues will now have one cause less for complaint. Nevertheless, the Argentine Government may always count on us as a warm supporter, whenever the true interests of the country are concerned.

To other and better hands it will doubtless confide the task of explain-

ing to the European the advantages of this country as a field for emigration. We have done our best under the circumstances, and can do no more; every impartial reader will admit that the task, the least to say, was a difficult one.

The following is the decree—
National Government House,
Department of Interior,

B. Ayres, May 4, 1871.

The writings of the STANDARD not being calculated to promote immigration, the President of the Republic

Decrees—

1st. Let the subscription to the STANDARD be discontinued.

2nd. Let this be communicated, published, and inserted in the national register.

SARMIENTO.

LUIS V. VARELA.

OFFICIAL MORTALITY LIST.

The following is the official list of the mortality from yellow fever; the returns have been obtained from the various departments of the Policia, and the officials of the cemeteries.

Date.	Month.	Cause.	Total.			
27	January	Y. Fever	3	20	....	12
29	....	....	1	21	....	12
30	....	....	1	22	....	11
31	....	....	1	23	....	20
2	February	....	4	24	....	24
3	....	....	2	25	....	30
4	....	....	3	26	....	27
5	....	....	1	27	....	29
6	....	....	4	28	....	31
7	....	....	2	—	....	1
8	....	....	3	1	March	41
9	....	....	6	2	....	40
10	....	....	7	3	....	38
11	....	....	7	4	....	44
—	....	Cholera.	1	5	....	47
12	....	....	9	6	....	102
13	....	....	7	7	....	112
14	....	....	8	8	....	112
15	....	....	13	9	....	126
16	....	....	8	10	....	128
17	....	....	16	11	....	139
18	....	....	13	12	....	137
19	....	....	9	13	....	153
				14	....	164
				15	....	170
				16	....	193
				17	....	195
				18	....	204
				19	....	150
				20	....	165
				21	....	152

22	.....	.....	160	18	.....	.....	203
23	.....	.....	150	19	.....	.....	171
24	.....	.....	170	20	.....	.....	153
25	.....	.....	219	21	.....	.....	105
26	.....	.....	231	22	.....	.....	129
27	.....	.....	310	23	.....	.....	89
28	.....	.....	337	24	.....	.....	95
29	.....	.....	280	25	.....	.....	104
30	.....	.....	301	26	.....	.....	130
31	.....	.....	222	27	.....	.....	153
1	April	.....	258	28	.....	.....	161
2	.....	.....	318	29	.....	.....	116
3	.....	.....	345	30	.....	.....	85
4	.....	.....	400	1	May	.....	117
5	.....	.....	314	2	.....	.....	71
6	.....	.....	324	3	.....	.....	66
7	.....	.....	380	4	.....	.....	47
8	.....	.....	430	5	.....	.....	38
9	.....	.....	501	6	.....	.....	42
10	.....	.....	503	7	.....	.....	33
11	.....	.....	361	8	.....	.....	27
12	.....	.....	427	9	.....	.....	32
13	.....	.....	293	10	.....	.....	32
14	.....	.....	276	11	.....	.....	23
15	.....	.....	263				
16	.....	.....	249				
17	.....	.....	228				
					Total	.....	13,403

LETTER,

*Addressed by permission, to H. G. Mac Donell, Esq., H. B. M. Chargé
d'Affaires in the Argentine Republic, May 25th, 1871*

Sir,

On the 11th March, an approximation to the state of the city of Buenos Ayres having forced itself upon the minds of the citizens, your worst fears were realized. Under these circumstances the English, Irish, and Scotch chaplains received a letter from the British Legation, signed by you, stating that you would render assistance to the widows and orphans of those of your countrymen who might fall victims to the fever, and also that you would assist in any way that seemed open to you.

It is my pleasing duty now to thank you for having acted up to the spirit of your letter, for your personal favors and advice, for funds received, and, above all, for securing the services of Dr. C. B. Greenfield.

On the 14th of March you published in the *STANDARD* a notice from the Legation, officially announcing your charitable intentions.

At a meeting held on the 14th of March, the committee of the British Hospital unanimously agreed not to

receive yellow fever patients. At a second meeting held on the 22nd of March the following notice was issued:

"The committee of the Hospital being prohibited by the Municipality from receiving yellow fever patients within the buildings, it has been resolved that all cases connected with the British community will be cared for, as far as possible, in their own residences, on application being made to the following gentlemen—Rev. Mr. Smith, Scotch Church, Rev. Mr. Ash, English Church, Rev. Mr. Lett, do., or to Dr. Conyngham, British Hospital, or at his residence, No. 35 Calle Reconquista.

"By order,

"ALEX. MCGHIE,

"Hon. Sec."

The wisdom of this mode of procedure may be questioned, but not the intention.

A well written article, entitled "The Harvest of Death," appeared in the *STANDARD* on the 21st March, and has, no doubt, proved a success-

ful advocate with many, here and at home, for its own well expressed views. The defence is easy. In the first place, no fever hospitals were allowed by Government, a lazaretto having been erected to meet the wants of the people. In the second place, the present building could accommodate only a small per centage of the fever patients, whilst the debt which would have been incurred might have proved most serious to even the existence of the institution. In the third place, the wants of the community were supplied by the following means: On the 19th March, Messrs. H. A. Green and A. M. Bell, British Hospital committee, received collections from the public to the amount of \$32,750 mpc, and a further sum of \$19,300 was afterwards sent in to Messrs. T. Getting and F. W. Moore. These donations were placed in the hands of the Revs. T. E. Ashe, J. Smith, and F. N. Lett, to defray the expenses connected with their now missionary character and habits—to relieve all English speaking poor, without regard to creed or nationality.

At this time it was necessary to confer with the Rev. J. B. Leahy, Irish pastor, as to whether he would participate in these funds. After due consideration he thought it better to extend a list already before the public, called "The Irish Fever Relief Fund." His call was immediately and liberally responded to, \$30,000 being the amount subscribed up to the present.

These funds having been raised, the Irish clergymen, with the Rev. J. B. Leahy at their head, together

with their devoted band of Sister of Mercy, threw themselves into the work; and, notwithstanding the overwhelming distress around them, they often found time to visit and relieve others than Irish sufferers.

The Scotch chaplain, with his accustomed energy and tact, was fully equal to the emergency. The English clergymen secured the services of W. Smith, a man of long experience as hospital nurse, and fourteen other nurses, of more or less ability, all of whom, with one exception, gave general satisfaction, both to their patients and medical attendants. I have seen their testimonials, and hold full reports of their cases.

Out of a congregation of 450 the Rev. J. Smith lost 54 by yellow fever. The Irish death roll numbers 56. The deaths among the English amount to 120, making a total of 230, the names of whom have been ascertained.

During this time the number of persons relieved at the English Church was 1,250; the number of applications being 2,550; and the greatest number on a single day being 93.

The amount spent by the English chaplains up to date \$81,506; by the Scotch chaplain \$30,270; and by the Irish \$30,000.

The number of widows and orphans in need is about 15 and 14 English, 4 and 19 Irish, 10 and 24 Scotch—total 29 widows and 57 orphans.

Great distress has been experienced by many who, as a rule, live up to their monthly receipts. This class has been assisted as far as the means at disposal permitted.

Of applicants of the laboring class three out of five were of the class, who never have certain means of livelihood.

The Southern Railway has lost 26 of its employees, the Northern 20, and the Boca 8. Great credit is due to the managers of these lines under the circumstances, especially when we consider the great increase of traffic.

It is earnestly to be desired that the Government should publish some authoritative statistics of the mortality during this plague.

The STANDARD did but echo public opinion when it published its eloquent issue of the 30th of April. Nor did it state anything very far removed from the truth of the case, as can be testified by all those the opinion of whom is of any value. I am sure that the editors of the native papers, kind, generous, and withal jealous of their own honor, will view the question in some such light, especially when they reflect that it is not a matter of a few thousand deaths more or less which will deter any from these shores, but merely the fact that the yellow fever has appeared in the River Plate in a virulent form; and that until such measures shall have been taken to secure this city from future ravages of that dire visitant, those of weak nerves and constitutions will seek a home on more congenial shores.

Great credit is due to the Municipal authorities, for having been able to produce such suggestive lists of deaths from yellow fever as were supplied to the daily papers, and also to the editors of them for ascertain-

ing, during the plague, the names and ages of so many of our dead.

By the Municipal returns, published in the STANDARD of May 13th, I see that January 27th has been fixed upon as the precise date of the first appearance of yellow fever resulting in death in this city in the year 1871; whilst 3 is the number placed to indicate the interments of that day: the following three days we find 1 per diem recorded. Yet, in the early part of the month of January did not cases occur? and by their occurrence call for learned disquisitions touching the nature of the disease? and was it not at last settled by the majority of those who were competent to judge that the new disease be considered yellow fever? Indeed it yet remains to be proved that isolated cases did not occur during the last winter, and that this city has been exempt from infection since the autumn of 1870. Two is the number given on February 7th: I have good reason, however, for stating that on further enquiry this number will be found to be incorrect.

On the 2nd of March 40 deaths are recorded from yellow fever, whilst 30 are returned from other causes. On the 3rd we have 38, on the 4th 44, and of other causes 30 per diem; the authorities had therefore to inter 70 per diem—not any great feat, when we consider they had then three cemeteries at their disposal. I may here mention that, considering the population was on the decrease, 30 deaths per diem from general causes was a very high rate of mortality, and it needs some explanation, both from medical and official quarters. On

the 5th of March the returns offered to the public are 47. The number of deaths from the fever per diem from the 14th of February being this series—8, 13, 16, 13, 9, 12, 12, 11, 20, 24, 30, 27, 29, 31, 41, 40, 38, 44, 47 making a total of 536 from Jan. 27th to March 5th.

536 persons had therefore perished in 36 days, i.e., an average of 15 per diem: the highest number in one day being 47.

47 deaths from fever out of 160,000 inhabitants, and 30 from other causes, making 77 in all, according to the Municipal returns; and yet the burying of these strained the already overtaxed energies of the authorities to the utmost, and caused such a widespread panic among official circles that some of the members of the legislature, judges, and other public authorities left the city. The Municipal Council was remiss, and so utter was the neglect in all matters of administration that the citizens, after due deliberation, determined to hold a mass meeting on the first day of the next week to appoint a Committee of 33 residents, natives and foreigners, to act as might be deemed advisable.

It will be my duty therefore, with the Municipal returns before me, and the facts of the case being patent to all, to chronicle the demoralization of this city,—when, after a year's warning, and 36 days' registered progress of the pestilence, and a total of 536 deaths, panic seized on those who should have been the least panic stricken, seeing that they were best acquainted with the real state of the city. While the calm and thoughtful

considered 1,500 to have fallen, the panic stricken knew 536 to be the correct number.

On the 6th of March it will be noticed that foreigners were called upon to make provision for the poor and sick, a notice from the English clergymen having then appeared in the *STANDARD*, appealing to their congregations to aid their exhausted means.

On this day 102 are reported as having died, that being more than double the number of the preceding day. This sudden increase cannot be accounted for philosophically, the weather remaining equable, and the citizens rapidly removing from the infected districts. Yet, perhaps a solution to the problem may be found when we remember that not only was the aforesaid mass-meeting mooted, but also certain high in authority had by this time obtained a more accurate knowledge of the situation.

In addition to this, it may not be considered superfluous to mention that the facilities for obtaining burial licenses and tickets were multiplied.

On the 8th March 112 deaths are recorded. At half-past one on this day I was at the Southern Cemetery, and counted 73 coffins on the ground, and 17 new arrivals before one hour had elapsed. So great was the business on hand that, after waiting an hour, and still unable to obtain a grave that had been purchased in the morning at the Cabildo, I left three of the party at the ground, and returned to the city. On the way to the Plaza Victoria we passed 11 funerals. I ask if there had been no interments on this day previous to our arrival;

also, were there no other fresh arrivals besides the 11 that met us? At 6 o'clock I was again there, and saw 45 coffins lying awaiting interment.

On Monday, the 13th, not less than 240 died, whilst the return was 153. That night it rained heavily, and on the 14th the death rate rose to 300, but in the return 164.

Up to the 12th the returns give 1,393 as the total—a number about as far from the truth as the plague was from its decline.

At this time the fever broke out in the wards of the British Hospital, and scarcely any house in the south end of the city was free from the disease. The city was plunged into mourning: and yet we are asked to believe the announcement of a total loss of 13,400.

The night of the 15th was very cold, and the fever increased. The 17th it was worse, with the weather warm. On Sunday the 18th, before 7 o'clock a.m., 8 deaths occurred among the English, and 5 more before 3 p.m. This was almost the worst time with our community. The day was intensely hot. I supped that night with the late L. F. Lafone, Esq., who, not an alarmist, and one fully acquainted with the customs of the country, expressed his surprise at the returns published by the Spanish papers. Yet those returns are, as a rule, higher than those supplied by the Municipality.

The sickness, even now, was so great that the Rev. F. N. Lett made 203 visits in 24 hours, whilst all the nurses were engaged day and night.

On the 26th Dr. Perez was buried, amid very heavy rain, on a day that

witnessed not less than 400 funerals, but only 231 in the returns.

On the 28th there were fully 400. The 30th was very hot.

After this the visitors to the Cemetery reported the coffins as too many to count.

On April 3rd it rained, and the plague began!

On the 4th the weather was wet and cold, remaining cold until the evening of the 12th.

During these 9 days 3,985 died according to the return, out of a population of about 70,000—not less than 1,300 dying on the 9th and 10th, the returns giving 1,003.

At this time it was very difficult to obtain doctors and nurses, whilst the last rites of religion were in a few instances unavoidably left unperformed. 94 English speaking persons died between the 4th and 19th.

On the 11th the Board of Health desired all who were able, to leave the city, 500 deaths having occurred on that day, whilst the Governor decreed 20 days' grace.

The return gives 360 for that day, and for the previous day 503: so with the rapid fall from 503 to 360 a new step was taken, contrary to what might have been expected.

On the 13th the weather became fine. On the 15th the Chacarita Cemetery was opened. The plague had stayed, for on that day the death rate fell sensibly.

During the next five days the temperature continued warm, but on the 21st cold weather returned, with a marked decrease in the mortality. The 25th and following days were bitterly cold and damp, and the death

rate rose considerably, being on the 28th double that on the 24th.

The next week was wet but warm. On the 1st of May there were less than 200 deaths, and on the 2nd less than 150.

From this day we may date the decided decline of the epidemic. The population began to return to the city in considerable numbers. Fears were freely expressed that too precipitate a return would occasion a fresh outburst of the pestilence. These anticipations, however, were not realized. Yet, on the 16th of May the Board of Health published a renewal of their manifesto, warning the refugees in the camp that the majority of the new cases were among the people who had returned to the city.

On the 19th the Comision Popular, having fulfilled its noble and heroic task of charity, resigned its well-administered authority into the hands of the public, for whom it had worked so well, having disbursed \$3,629,354 in the relief of the sick and suffering.

The origin and accelerating causes of the plague have been so often and satisfactorily explained by the STANDARD and other papers that nothing more need be advanced. Indeed, until some commission shall have authoritatively reported upon this epidemic—its near and remote causes, with its probable results—it will be found a very difficult task to throw any more light on the subject than that which has already been produced by the press.

It will be a bold spirit, indeed, that pretends to an accurate table of deaths resulting from yellow fever

in the city of Buenos Ayres during the months of January, February, March, April, and May, 1871. Yet, perhaps I may be permitted to offer you the following figures as being the lowest that I can conscientiously state—viz.,

Interred in South Cemetery to	
April 14.....	18,700
Chacarita, to May 25	4,000
Total	22,700

To this total must be added the lists from the camp and suburban villages. I feel sure, therefore, that I shall not be conspicuous for either credulity or rashness when I give a total of 23,000 as not being above, perhaps below, the late loss of life from the fever.

The list of poor patients attended by Dr. Greenfield, on behalf of the British Legation, between March 24 and May 15, was as follows—

	Cured	Deaths	Total.
Yellow fever	50	17	67
Various diseases	30	5	35
Total.....	80	22	102

These 17 deaths were all males, of the average age of 35.

Out of 4,000 victims to the fever whose ages I have been able to ascertain—

1,800 died before the age of 30	
1,600 between 30 and 50	
600 between 50 and 90	

That is, out of every 20—

9 died under 30	
8 between 30 and 50	
3 " 50 " 90	

Considering the relative ages of the population, the greatest mortality has been amongst those who had

passed the prime of life. This mortality has been greatest amongst the males, especially between the ages of 29 and 59.

Under these circumstances it is not surprising that though I can only ascertain the names of 221 of our deceased countrymen, I have yet to draw your attention to 86 widows and orphans.

The lazaretto, situated at the Once de Setiembre, was opened on Dec. 10th, 1879; and though it was not patronised as it ought to have been during the last few months, it yet afforded timely succour to 2,396 persons to May 19th at evening. Notwithstanding the numbers that were brought to it in a dying state—many dying on the way—the average mortality for 24 hours in the large ward was only from 16 to 18.

No less than 30 of our countrymen found a welcome within the walls of this establishment, two-thirds of whom recovered.

In noticing the treatment received at the hands of various officials I cannot speak too highly. At the cemeteries and the lazaretto the utmost courtesy was always shewn to those who had any business to transact. The management of the cemeteries was, under the circumstances, highly creditable to the administrators, Messrs. Munilla and Costa; whilst

the speedy construction of the railroad to the Chacarita, and the adaptability of that cemetery for the purpose proposed, together with the mode of transit, call for a meed of praise not often bestowed by an exacting public.

I must not omit to thank the Irish Hospital for the admission and care of some English females attacked by the fever.

The sincere and constant gratitude of the British community has been justly earned by Drs. Alston, Ayer, Conyngham, Greenfield, Lau-en, Mac Donald, Nelson, and Newkirk.

The best thanks are due for their generous and self-denying efforts, to F. Parish, Esq., H. B. M. Consul, H. A. Green, Esq., F. Getting, Esq., F. W. Moore, Esq., P. Hazon, Esq., W. D. Junor, Esq., and Mr. J. Anderson—all of whom, from their position, were enabled to render timely aid to their suffering fellow-countrymen.

Also to the Editors of the STANDARD, for their indefatigable readiness to assist the British community during this time, as on all other occasions.

Hoping that life and health may long be granted you.

I beg to subscribe myself,

Yours very sincerely,

T. E. ASH, B.A.,
St. John's Coll. Cam.

EXTRACT

From the reply of H. G. Mac Donell, Esq., to the above.

"In returning you my sincere thanks for the very able and detailed narrative with which you have furnished me of the melancholy events so recently devastating this city, I need only add that I shall transmit

to H. M.'s Government a copy of your letter, in which these events are embodied, and which is in itself so complete as to render unnecessary any additional comment on my part."

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

To demonstrate the value of statistics the following is copied from a native paper—

“Approximate population of the city of Buenos Ayres in March, 1871, judging by the census of 1869, and taking into account the births, deaths, and immigration.

	Under 11 years.	Over 11 years.	Total.
Argentines ..	39,200	59,600	98,800
Spaniards ..	600	14,700	15,300
French	600	14,000	14,600
English	130	3,100	3,230
Italians	3,200	46,700	49,900
Various	1,350	15,500	16,850
	45,080	153,600	198,680

“Actual estimated population of the city of Buenos Ayres between the 3rd and 8th March, 1871, when 50,000 of its inhabitants had left.

	Under 11	Over 11	Total.
Argentines..	19,300	31,100	50,400
Spaniards...	570	13,950	14,520
French.....	570	13,300	13,870
English.....	123	2,900	3,023
Italians.....	3,070	44,350	47,420
Various.....	1,282	14,740	16,022
	24,915	120,340	145,255

“The rate of mortality from yellow fever on the 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 of March, according to the daily papers, was as follows :

	U. 11	Over 11	Total.
Argentines.....	14	107	121
Spaniards.....	0	37	37
French.....	0	27	27
English.....	0	11	11
Italians.....	4	194	198
Various.....	0	13	13
	18	388	407

“Thus we have of persons over 11 years of age—

Argentines.....	31,100
Spaniards.....	13,950
French.....	13,300
English.....	2,900
Italians.....	44,350
Various.....	14,740
	120,340

“It is therefore from the actual population of persons over 11 years of age that we are to look for the relative mortality of different nationalities : but better, were it possible, among the white population only.

“We take then the deaths among

the said adult population for the six days indicated, as follows :

Argentines.....	107
Spaniards.....	37
French.....	27
English.....	11
Italians.....	194
Various.....	13

—
384

“This then gives the following result :

Argentines....	3.4 per mil
Spaniards....	2.5 “
French.....	2.0 “
English.....	3.7 “
Italians.....	4.3 “
Various.....	0.9 “

“Thus giving an average of 3.1 deaths per 1,000 of the adult population in six days.”

Now, I am told the English loss is 204. I find here the English population is 3,023 : i.e., 1 in 15 died. I ask, did not those who lived in ‘conventillos’ and the worst parts of the city, who fed on the worst of diet, and were as a rule ignorant of the laws of cleanliness—invite the disease rather than repel it, and pay the penalty? Yet, the English, who as a rule removed from the city during the plague, lose 1 in 15, out of 3,023, viz., 204.

March 8th, the population, minus English, is (198,680—3,230) 195,450. Let these die in the same ratio as the

English, viz., 1 in 15, and the number is 13,000 deaths.

Now, the English, as a rule, were buried by responsible parties, and consequently tolerably accurate returns have been given. I take therefore with confidence 230 from my register—deaths from yellow fever—and I find that we have lost 1 in 13.

From that particular class of the population which was most liable to attacks of fever, 3 remained in the city, to 1 of that class which was least liable: amongst the latter class is the English community.

We have therefore 230 deaths, out of 1,000 English, i.e., 1 in 5 from those who remained in the city. Now, leave two-thirds of 195,450 in town, viz., 130,150, and take 1 in 5 from the number, and we obtain a return of deaths 26,030.

This is allowing the rate of mortality to be the same for those who dwell in ‘conventillos’ as for those who don’t; for those who obey the injunctions of the physician, as for those who fly in the face of physical laws; for the 49,900 Italians, and the 3,023 English; for those who had the best of medical advice, the kindest of nurses, and the most nourishing food, as for those who had scarcely time to breathe a last sigh before being sent to the threshold of their better home.

P.S.—Professor Murray, in an article to the “Revista Farmaceutica,” states that the estimate made by me is noteworthy.

THE ENGLISH DEATH ROLL.

Aylott Charles, 35, England
 Allen J. W., 35
 Allinson W., and wife
 Armstrong James, 40
 Atkinson Wm., 70
 Baine John, 32, U. States
 Blake Mary E., 22
 Brown George, 36
 Bryce Ann, 30
 Brill Charles, 29
 Butterfield — 60
 Barry William, 30, Dublin
 Barry John, 30
 Berrian Stephen, 52
 Bell James, 19
 Brown David, 36
 Butler John, 67
 Butler Alice, 17
 Bettison Jane, 75
 Braving W., Plymouth
 Cook Mark, 22, London
 Casey J., 35
 Cashman W., 30
 Camming John, 65
 Cumming John, jun., 19
 Cewan Janet, 66
 Claypole William, 36
 Campbell Agnes, 74
 Charles Stuart B., 28
 Crazier Thomas
 Cameron W., 24
 Cook William, 46
 Cook Margaret A., 9
 Campbell Ellen, 25
 Cribbes James, 44
 Critchley Grace, 67
 Croome Hiram, 66, Waterford
 Campbell Maryanne, 28
 Carneghan Mrs., 35, Liverpool
 Dalton Rose, Westmeath
 Duffy John, 85, King's Co.
 Dominick Mrs., U. States
 Davis Capt., 45
 Dunican Mary, 20, Westmeath
 Daws W., 53, London
 Day Henry G., 40, London
 Douglas A. F., 17
 Draver Mrs.
 Donnelly —
 Dodds Catherine, 32
 Davis Mary Ann, 28
 Dogherty Rose, 28, Longford
 Foster W., 25
 Fahy Rev. A., 67, Galway

Fowler —
 Foster B., 74
 George Jacob
 Gordon John, 22
 Godfrey Mary, 24
 Grey Annie, 36
 Gallagher W., and wife
 Gibson —, 30
 Godsall Richard, 39
 Hill James S., 28
 Hausworth J. P.
 Hunter Robert, 32
 Herring Thomas, Darlington
 Holmes Elizabeth A., 17
 Heeby W., 26
 Harris Henry, 26
 Hill John Hogg, 48, London
 Humphries Samuel
 Hazell Samuel, 36
 Hargreaves Frederick, 70
 Harper J., 51
 Herbert T., 42
 Junor Hannah, 29
 James Mrs., 53
 Judge Mary, 26, Westmeath
 James Charles, 68
 Kennedy F., 48
 King G.
 Lawler Peter, 24, Wexford
 Lee Dorothy, 48, Newcastle
 Lafone Samuel F., 68
 Levy John D., 60
 Lowry John G., 65
 Langford Charles
 Linnay James
 McCreary Margaret, 55
 Mulvany Mrs., 35
 Macken Thomas, 34, Dublin
 Milne Henry, 46
 Mullady Patrick
 Murray Mrs., 55, Wigtonshire
 Morris Timothy H., 28
 Murning Mrs. and daughter
 Mair Edward M.
 MacLean Margaret
 Munroe C.
 Moore Richard, 29
 McKiddie W., 29
 MacLean Mrs. S., 74, Inverness
 MacLean Margaret, 44
 Nicholson H. R., 58, Armagh
 Nelson —, 23
 Nicholls Ann L., 45, London
 Orford Mrs., 55

Prescott Henry, 40
 Palmer J., 45
 Peary —, 28
 Plymouth W., 30
 Ryan M. G., 30, Limerick
 Roberts P., 30
 Reincke Leonora J., 20
 Ramsay Gilbert, 72, Ayrshire
 Ryan Mrs. George
 Stanfield James, 45, London
 Stanfield Mrs.
 Smith Mrs., Westmeath
 Southron Mrs., 45, Newcastle
 Southron James M., 14
 Simpson John, 25
 Spratt G., 23, Wigtonshire
 Shaughnessy J. and wife
 Shanks Miss R., 20
 Scolbin W., 45
 Siggins N., 30
 Siggins B., 33
 Smith Mrs.
 Smith W.
 Stewart James, 30
 Shanty R., 20, Glasgow
 Sanders Mrs. H.
 Tomey Mr., 32
 Tidblom Mrs., 76, London
 Tidblom George, 40
 Tidblom Charles, 45
 Tait J.
 Trella Mrs., London
 Toplin S., 26
 Thompson J., 32, Edinburgh
 Tweedle Anne, 20, Norfolk
 Tweedle W., 18
 Turner Thomas, 22
 White Mrs. Mary, 24
 Woodley Anne M., 79, London
 Winton Isabella, 55
 Wallace Patrick
 Word Miss
 Winton Miss, 23
 Wilson Mary, 43
 Wilson James, 20
 Wilson Andrew, 29
 Warden John, 35
 White Lizzie, 10
 Woodley Charles, 18
 Walker George, 30
 Walsh J.
 Woodcock F., 30
 Wilkinson W., Birmingham
 Young Margaret, 60