

**An authentick account of the measures and precautions used at Venice / by the Magistrate of the Office of Health, for the preservation of the publick health.**

**Contributors**

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AN AUTHENTICK  
ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
Measures and Precautions  
USED AT  
*V E N I C E,*  
BY THE  
MAGISTRATE of the Office of HEALTH,  
FOR THE  
PRESERVATION of the PUBLICK HEALTH.

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L O N D O N:  
Printed by EDWARD OWEN in *Warwick-Lane.* 1752.



AN AUTHENTIC  
ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
Measures and Precautions  
USED AT  
NEW YORK  
BY THE  
MAGISTRATE of the Office of HEALTH,  
FOR THE  
PRESERVATION of the PUBLIC HEALTH.

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LONDON:  
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AN AUTHENTICK  
 ACCOUNT  
 OF

The MEASURES and PRECAUTIONS used  
 at *VENICE*, by the MAGISTRATE of the  
 Office of HEALTH, for the PRESERVATION of the  
 PUBLICK HEALTH.



It is now the Third Century since the following Regulation took its Rise.

The Office of Health is furnished with such ample Power and Authority, as makes it at once useful and respectable; it is administered by the Subjects of the Republick most eminent for their Prudence, Dignity and Talents; it is furnished with Abundance of Officers, a few of whom are employed in the Distribution of Orders, and the rest in their Execution. In describing



scribing occasionally these different Branches, much Light will be let in upon the Subject.

Experience has shewn, that in the *Ottoman* Dominions the Plague is never utterly extinct: Hence it is an immutable Law with the Magistrate of the Office of Health, to consider the whole Extent of the *Ottoman* Dominions, and every State dependent on it, as always to be suspected to be in an infected Condition, to such a Degree, as not to receive, in any Part of the Dominions of the Republick, either confining to or commercing with them, any Persons, Merchandizes, Animals, or any other Thing coming from thence, without the necessary Inspection of the Office of Health, and the previous Purifications.

To explain myself, I will suppose that a suspected Ship, coming from some Scale of the *Levant*, presents itself at the Mouth of these Ports, and, by describing the Conduct that is observed towards it, I shall shew the Rules that are practised with regard to every Vessel, coming from any Part of the World, that is either infected, or suspected to be so.

No Vessel can enter these Ports, unless it touches at *Istria*, and takes a Pilot on Board, or unless, on approaching to the Ports, it wait for the Towers of the Admiral to tow it up. These Officers do not immediately depend upon the Magistrate, but are obliged, however, not to neglect any of his Rules, nor to mix with any Vessel, even free or cleared, unless by the Magistrate's Leave; to make use of tarred Cables, or Cables of  
in the towing Vessels in, in order to avoid all  
Communication, and to direct the Captain of every suspected  
Vessel



Vessel to hoist up on the Mizen Mast a particular Signal; so that, by Means of the Spies, who are continually on the High Tower of St. *Mark* to discover any Vessels that approach, such Vessel is immediately known to be a Vessel subject to perform Quarantine.

As soon as the Vessel is discovered, the Magistrate has Notice, and all the Officers belonging to him; the Chief of whom instantly dispatches the *Guardian* (whose Turn it is) to meet it and go on Board, and guard it during the Term of Quarantine.

The Magistrate has Sixty of these Guardians in his Service, whose Duty it is, by Turns, either to go a-board any Ship, or to the *Lazarettos*, to superintend the Purification of Merchandizes, or the proper Quarantine of Persons. Their Duty, in general, is to see that all the Rules are observed concerning the Precautions and Purifications: Their Office is dangerous and delicate to the last Degree; they have a particular daily Appointment, which they have also from those concerned in the Ship or Cargo, besides their daily Provisions; and they answer with their Life any Contravention to the Rules that they should suffer to take Place, or dare to have any Hand in.

The Guardian then being dispatched to meet the Ship, he either meets her and goes a-board her out at Sea with the Admiral's own Boat, when there is any Doubt that it may be come from infected Parts; or he waits for her in those Waters where the Admiral, or his Towers, bring her to cast Anchor; the Places being different according to the different Size of the Ships, or the different Inspections under which they fall; as,



for Vessels that are very heavy, and sink deep in the Water, deeper Canals are assigned ; for those coming from Places which, their Passes shew, were infected, or on Board of which there are any Appearances of the Plague, Canals are assigned more remote, even twelve or fourteen Miles distant from the City ; and in that Case they are guarded by the publick Gallies, or Barks armed with Militia in Proportion to the Number of Vessels at one Time in that Quarantine, or according to the Quality of the Suspicions had of them, in order to prevent any Person from entring into these Canals, or any Thing being brought clandestinely out of them.

As soon as the Vessel is at Anchor, and has passed under the Observation of the Guardian, an Officer of the Magistrate (called *Fante*) is instantly sent on Board to bring the Captain, under the Precautions of the Office of Health, to the Abode of the Magistrate on the Shore to be examined.

The Magistrate has Seven of these Officers called *Fanti* ; the Head of them is the *Massaro* ; and his Duty is to collect all the Letters coming from suspected Countries, and to open and fumigate them ; for at the Time the Captain of the suspected Vessel is brought to be examined, he must deliver all his Letters, and not only all such as were entrusted to him, but also all others in Possession of any Passengers or others on Board. And in this Point he is obliged to the strictest Vigilance, since, besides the particular Care required that Paper be not suffered to pass without undergoing the necessary Fumigations, there is Danger that in the Letters be contained Samples for Cloaths, or other Things susceptible, and consequently subject to Purification.



The Duty of these *Fanti*, is to execute all the Orders issued by the Magistrate, as none else can execute them, and to superintend every Thing respecting the Duties and Precautions of the Office of Health, with this Difference between them and the Guardians, that the latter are always looked upon to be in the same Condition as the Ship, Passengers, or Merchandizes which they guard; whereas the *Fanti* keep themselves always clear, and serve for an Escort upon all Occasions, without being in the least contaminated.

As soon as ever the *Fante* is arrived along-Side the suspected Vessel in his own Boat, the Captain must get into his own Boat with his Sailors, and keep behind the *Fante's*, which precedes always at a due Distance, in order to oblige to sheer off all Vessels they may meet by the Way, and to take Care that the Ship-Boat itself do not approach any Vessel, or put to Land at any Island in their Way to the Parts of the Magistrate's Abode on the Shore, which are so barricadoed, that, though Discourse may be held at a Distance between the New-Comers, and those at Land, no Communication of any Kind can happen; and as soon as the Captain is on Shore, he is introduced, through a guarded Street, to the Spot destined for him to be examined at, which is an Inclosure shut up on all Sides; where, by the Clerk of the Magistrate, (an Officer particularly appointed for that Business) he is, from a Window, examined, at a due Distance.

The Inquiry turns particularly upon, Whence the Vessel comes, and in what Length of Time; If from a healthy or suspected Part; What Kind of a Voyage she has had; What Places touched at; and Whether in them he had been admitted to



to Communication or not; If he met any Ships at Sea, and from whence, and Whether he had any Communication with them. The Number is demanded of his Crew and Passengers; If they have been always well in the Voyage, or if any of them are missing; What, and how much, is the Cargo he brings; If all from one Place, or from many; and lastly, Whether, in what regards the Health, he had observed in any Parts any *Risings*; and intimating to him, that he must exhibit all the Papers and Letters he has.

The first of these to be examined on the Spot, are the Patents or Bills of Health, in order to compare with them the Facts delivered in the Examination, and particularly the Number of Persons who are on Board the Vessel. This is looked upon to be so essentially requisite, and of such Consequence, that if any Vessel should arrive without it, though it should be come from a Place absolutely free, and even in the Neighbourhood, it would either not be admitted at all, or not have any Communication granted it, unless after a most rigorous Quarantine.

If by chance the Patents should be defective, and should denote a greater or less Number of Persons than are taken down in the Examination, the Captain must prove, in the clearest Manner, either the Flight or Death, and particularly the Condition of that Person who is wanting; and in the same Manner he is to produce particular Patents; and with Evidence upon Examination, and by other Proofs of the same Nature, he is to make it appear from what Place he took up the Person who happens to be one more than the Number set forth in the said Patents; since, in the first Case, there may remain  
a Doubt,



a Doubt, that the Deficiency may have been owing to Death by Infection, or to Flight to Parts not named; and in the second Case, it is to be considered, that it is possible, that the Person, exceeding the Number mentioned in the Patent, may have been received from some suspected Vessel, or from some infected Place.

Besides these Patents, the Captain is also to give a distinct Account of all his Cargo, both of its Quality and Quantity; which is called giving a *Manifest*; from whence is discovered, whether any of the Merchandizes may have been brought from suspected Countries; in which Case the Captain must prove, that in that Place they had undergone the necessary Purification. By Means of the Manifest, Lights also are gathered as to what Kind of Quarantine may be proper for infectious Ladings of different Kinds, and Orders given for taking out such as are of a Nature not to give Suspicion.

'Tis here proper to observe, that this Order for Examining and Comparing is executed on every Vessel arriving in these Parts, they being all treated upon the Foot of Suspicion, (tho' they be not so) until, that by the Concert produced by the aforesaid Enquiries, a Certainty is obtained of their Condition: Nor can they before that have any Communication at all; and as the very Essence of this momentous Concern depends upon Integrity and Fidelity, every Captain is guilty of High Treason for any Prevarication in his Depositions upon Examination, or any Falsification of his fiduciary Papers; this Point being watched with the utmost Attention and Care.



These Researches being over, if the Vessel really comes from a Place that is free, it is declared free; if from a suspected one, the Captain is reconducted on Board his Ship with the same Precautions used on his being brought ashore.

And as the Guardian is already on Board it, he begins now to exercise his Functions; 1<sup>st</sup>, He forms a distinct List of the Number, Names and Surnames of all the Persons on Board; 2<sup>dly</sup>, Another List of all the Things belonging to each Person, distinguishing those which are simply for their Use from such as may be traded with; it being lawful to keep the first in the Ship, when any Person performs his Quarantine aboard with the Crew; but they must be exposed to Air, and every Day handled; the same not being allowed to Merchandize, which must all be purified at the *Lazarettos*. Both these Rolls or Lists are sent to the Magistrate; and, the Captain's Assertions on his Examination being entirely proved, Order is given for unlading the Ship, and for transporting the Goods to the *Lazaretto*; it never being allowed, either that any Goods remain in the Ship for Purification, or that the Time of Quarantine for the Ship should begin till the Unlading is finished.

However, the Magistrate being desirous not to embarrass Commerce more than the Publick Safety requires; those Goods are distinguished, which are susceptible of Infection, from those which are not: Some of them are allowed to be taken from on Board the Ship without passing through any Purifications, with the Assistance however of the *Pante* without, as well as of the Guardian within; lest, under Pretence of Things being uninfected, any Thing should be delivered out that requires Purification: Some other Things may also be taken away, but  
not



not from the Ship, but from the *Lazarettos*; the first Indulgence is granted to those Things which are not liable to Infection; the second, to others that being free themselves are wrapp'd in Covers that are not so; as these Covers must be carefully taken off by Persons suspected, and are to be on the Footing of other suspected Things.

Every Thing else, which may give Suspicion, must be purified according to the Rules of the *Lazarettos*.

Precautions are used in changing Things from one Vessel to another, and in transporting them; for which Reason, this being only to be done by Boats destined for that Use, called *Peate*, they cannot go to the Ship's Side without Leave, and that is not given till the Information aforesaid is obtained; and when they are come to the Side of the Ship, no one meddles with the Cargo but the Ship's Crew, the *Fante* being always present out of the Ship, and the Guardian within, who takes an exact Note of all that is laden on them, to be transmitted to the Magistrate. In their Way to the *Lazaretto*, the *Fante* escorts them with the due Cautions, accompanied by the Clerk of the Ship, or some other of the Persons concerned, and consigns them to the Prior of the *Lazaretto*, who makes the *Bastazi* answerable for them, who are appointed to have the Handling of them, and the Guardian who is to superintend it, and sends the Magistrate a distinct List of every Thing which is received, for a fuller Check.

*Bastazi* is the Name given to those, who open the Bales of Merchandize, and handle them, and keep amongst them all the Time prescribed for Quarantine. They are chosen by the  
 Merchants



Merchants concerned, that they may be secure of their Regularity. But the Magistrate requires they should be knowing Persons, and there is a Guardian appointed them, to take Care that the Purifications are exact, and that Interest does not occasion any Breach of the Rules. They have their Necessaries and daily Pay from the Merchants, and they are the Persons who are most diligently examined; for, from the Effects which are discovered on them, may be known what there is to fear: 'Tis not however in the Breast of the Merchants to appoint a greater or less Number of these; but the Laws have provided, that each *Bastazo* is to serve for so many Bales as he can manage carefully in a Day.

The Transporting Goods to the *Lazaretti* has been mentioned, the same is to be understood of Persons, who are there with their Things to perform the Quarantine, and prove their being in Health under the Care of another Guardian; it being seldom allowed (and that only to some poor Wretch) to perform Quarantine in the Ship, for fear the Things worn or wearable should not be sufficiently purified. 'Tis to be observed, that every Vessel having on Board Goods and Passengers, must have three Guardians; one for the Ship, one for the Goods, and one for the Passengers, together with the Help of so many other Officers as may seem a heavy Expence: But if it be considered that this is borne by the Goods, and that they are sold in the Country, it will appear how much Care is taken of the Publick Safety, which is preferred to every other Consideration.

But all these Precautions are to be compleated in the *Lazarettos*, so called from the original Intention of them for the Recovery of Persons sick of the Plague, but worthy now a better



'better Name, as they are the Deposits of the Publick Safety, which therein exercises its Precautions. These are of a double Use; for the Purification of Persons and Merchandize, separately, in Times of Health; and for the Recovery of sick infected Persons, and the Purification of dangerous Household Furniture, in Times of the Plague; to which Use are also converted other Insular Places which are scattered among the Marshes round us.

The first Thing to be considered in these *Lazarettos* is their Situation. They should not be so near the Town as to cause any Danger, nor so far distant as not to be under the Eye of the Magistrate, and within Reach of all proper Provision and Assistance.

There are two *Lazarettos* at *Venice*, the Old and the New; the first distant two Miles and more, the other a little above Three from the City. Each forms a separate Island, which has nothing contiguous to it, and cut off from all Communication. Each takes up a large Space of Ground, shut in all round by Buildings washed by the Waters, which serve for a Wall and Guard: They have no Openings outward for any Thing to go out at, for every Thing must go out at the same Gate at which it entred. The Length of the Ground the first stands on is one hundred and five Geometrical Paces of five Feet each; the Breadth eighty-five; the whole Circumference three hundred and eighty. The second is somewhat larger, *viz.* one hundred and twelve long, ninety-two broad, and four hundred and fourteen in Circumference. The Structure of each is remarkable for its Capaciousness, but much more so for the Contrivances of Convenience and Security. At the Entrance is the



*Prior's House*, which is always free, disjoined from every Place belonging to the Quarantine, but so contrived, as to command the greater Part of them. All the rest of the Ground is taken up, either by Buildings to lodge Passengers, or in large Courts all surrounded with open Sheds, under which the Merchandizes are exposed to the Air, and preserved from the Weather; or else with great Sheds all round walled in, but with Holes in the Top to let in the Air; which serve for the same Use. What is most to be admired in the Contrivance of them is, that they are divided and subdivided into many Offices for Quarantines, and of different Kinds, in such a Manner, that each has its peculiar Ingress, without giving or receiving any Inconvenience from the other, in order to prevent the Danger of any Communications; in which the very Essence of the Regulations consists. As to the Places destined for the Reception of Persons; in the first Place, they are separated from every other, which serves for the Purification of Goods; and with great Reason; for if the Proprietor had Leave to visit his Cargo, whilst under Purification, his Coming might put a Constraint upon, or interrupt the Course of Management, through his Concern for preventing any Injury to the Merchandize. *2dly*, They are also separated from each other, though there are a greater or less Number of Rooms contiguous, for the Convenience of a greater or less Number of Passengers, who may arrive at one Time from the same Parts, all having different Ingresses, different Stairs, and no Communication. The Sheds, which inclose the Court Yards, are so disposed, that you cannot pass from one Court to another, all the Gates being kept shut. Each of these Sheds is terminated by a particular Building for the Abode of the Guardian and of the *Bastazi*, who have the Care of  
of



of the Merchandize exposed under it. The great Sheds have also their Convenience, their Use, and Security.

Ample Room is to be given to the Merchandizes, that they may, without being damaged by Weather, be penetrated by the Air; and become at, to be handled; and the Persons are also to be lodged, at Large, conveniently, without occasioning Mixture in the great Numbers of them, or in the Variety of their Quarantines: An Idea of which may perhaps best be had, by considering that the old *Lazaretto*, with only Eight Places for the Purification of Goods (each of them subdivisible into many more) can give Reception to 6730 Bales of Mercandize at once, coming from various Parts. And if one confines only to six different Quarantines, the Quarters appointed for Persons (each of which is subdivided into 13 Rooms) above 294 Persons may be easily and commodiously lodged there at once.

The New one, is more capacious; takes in an equal Number of Bales, but has somewhat under 200 Rooms for Passengers, and has sometimes furnished Accommodations for the Quarantine of 4000 Soldiers and 200 Horse, at Times when it was not incumbered with Merchandize.

As I need not be more diffuse upon the Description of them, I come now to the Forms observed in them.

An Officer called a *Prior* superintends in each. Great Care is taken in Choice of him, always taking Subjects of the Order of Citizens, and changing him every Fourth Year; and no one can be ever qualified for this Officer, who has either  
 Confanguinity



Confanguinity or Connexion with any of the Magistrate's Officers, or that is interested in any Vessel, or has any Concern in Trade of any Sort. He has a House within the Inclosure of the *Lazaretto*, as has been said, in which he is obliged to reside constantly; never being to leave it, except in the sole Case of attending the Magistrate's Orders; then leaving a Subaltern in his Room, called the *Sub-Prior*, who is also his Assistant.

They have an annual handsome Allowance to subsist well upon; the Laws being rigorous, that, as they are so well provided for, they shall not have any Kind of Emolument imaginable, under any Pretence which might tempt their Avidity to mitigate, or dispense, with any of the Delicacies of the Purifications; and they cannot quit that Employment, which they enter into, in Times of no greater Exigency than the common legal Precautions, even in Case any Plague should happen in the City.

These are the sole Officers who receive all the Orders of the Magistrate, who (when necessary) require them, and then distribute them to the inferior Officers, for the Conduct of the *Lazarettos* that are under their Care and Direction.

At the Time of Election they give Security for their good Conduct, and another Security of a Thousand Ducats for the Interest of the Merchants who trust their Merchandize in their Hands.

Though the utmost Vigilance and Diligence is required of them, that all the Regulations be observed; their Hands are tied up in every Respect, not having the Privilege to give Employment



ployment to any one of their Family in the *Lazarettos*; nor are they to suffer Fishing in the neighbouring Canals, lest, under that Pretence, little Boats should approach, and some dangerous Transportation of any one be attempted; nor can they traffick in any Shape, or in any Thing, that is brought into the *Lazarettos*, or with any one there; nor must they suffer any Bargains to be driven between Persons in Quarantine, nor between them and those Officers that visit them; for which Reason no Broker can be admitted, even though he should have a particular Order; it being to be considered, that it is an unalterable Maxim, that no Person or Goods of any Kind, can be brought into the *Lazarettos*, or on Board suspected Vessels, without exprefs Orders of the Magistrate: For this Reason, the *Priors* depend solely on the Authority of the Magistrate, insoinuch that they are dispensed with obeying any other Orders whatsoever; the Publick Faith proceeding with such Delicacy on this important Head, that no Execution can be served upon any Kind of Goods, &c. brought and deposited in the *Lazarettos* for the Regards of Health; and even in Case a *Bandido* should clandestinely get in there, and be discovered, he is secure from such Time as he has taken his Refuge there, no Distinction being made of Persons, where the Safety of the State is at Stake.

To say something of the more general Duties to which the *Priors* are obliged: They keep all the Keys, as well of every Gate which gives Entrance into the *Lazarettos*, (which is more than one, besides all those that are upon the Canal, disposed in the best Manner to receive Goods, and pass them to the Place destined for their Purification, without passing by Places already occupied by others, lest there should be any Mistake) as of



every other Gate that secures the Quarantine of Persons and Goods; all which are to be shut when Night comes on, and opened only after the Sun rising; themselves always assisting, yet with such Precautions, that they themselves are always to be kept clear and free from Mixture.

They are responsible for whatever is sent to the *Lazarettos*, under Sanction, however, of the Magistrate's Order, with which they must be furnished; and with no other are they to be satisfied, not even with that of his Officers that bring them. They inspect the Guardians and the *Bastazi*, that they do their Duty each Day, in the Services render'd Persons and Goods, not permitting them to serve in more than one Quarantine; and that they are assiduous in exposing every Day to the Air, upon Ropes, the Passengers Things, taken out of their Trunks, &c. and in the necessary Management they are to observe of suspected Mercandize, with every Form required: For which Reason, and to provide for any Necessities of the Passengers, the *Prior* is every Day to make two Visits at least, one in the Morning, and the other in the Afternoon, to every Place of Quarantine.

This Care of keeping the Passengers supplied with all Necessaries, brings me to describe another Sort of Officers, in the Service of the Magistrate, called *Victuallers*.

These furnish the Passengers in the *Lazarettos*, and the Crew performing Quarantine on Board, with all Things necessary. There is a fixed Number of them, and they twice a Day visit the *Lazarettos* and Vessels; but they keep at due Distance, and always the *Prior* must be present at the first, and the Guardian  
in



in the last, (which is an immutable Rule, if any Visit is ever made) and all that they present, passes through the Hands of those Officers to the Persons, making use of a Basket for that Purpose, fastened to a Cane of three or four Fathom long, in which they put what they furnish them with, and receive their Money the same Way; which before they touch, they pass it through Vinegar or Salt-Water.

They are forbid by Law all Extortion, and all the Profit they have is only one Penny more in the Pound than the ordinary *Tariffes* allow, as settled from Time to Time by the Officers of the City.

It is not however prohibited to others, and such as are concerned with the Passengers to furnish them Victuals, provided all passes through the *Prior's* Hands, and none of the Rules of Precaution are eluded: The *Prior's* superintend these Victuallers, to prevent Fraud; and if such Exactness is observed, that Passengers suffer no Inconvenience or Uneasiness, still a greater Attention is exerted, if by Chance any one of them should be sick: For the *Prior* must forthwith declare the Case; and the First Physician of the Magistrate is immediately sent to, and the most scrupulous Observation is made of any Disorder, whose Symptoms should be doubtful. The same Rule is observed towards any Sick in the Ships; the Patient growing worse, nothing is withheld for preparing him to die well; there being a Church in the *Lazaretto*, &c. If the Sick would dispose of any of their Effects, the Priest that serves for Chaplain, acts as a Notary in Default of the *Prior*; but he cannot be appointed either Executor, or Heir, no more than any other Officer of the *Lazaretto*; and they only can serve as Witnesses:

But



But if the dying Person should desire a Publick Notary, it is granted by the Magistrate, whenever the Times and Con-junctures will allow of it.

Every Death must be immediately communicated, though it be of a known Distemper ; nor can the Corpse be moved, until (even after Death) it has been visited by the Chief Physician, to see if any Pestilential Marks were come out upon it : It is buried in a Church-yard belonging to the *Lazaretto* : And in Burying, no Hands are employed, but those in the same Quarantine he died in, digging a Hole at least two Fathom deep.

Such Circumspection is used, if the Distemper and the Death proceed from natural Causes : But the least Appearance of any Thing infectious, makes it much greater ; for as soon as ever it is known, the sick Person is separated from the others in Quarantine with him, who are obliged to begin again a more rigorous Quarantine ; dividing them as much as possible one from the other ; which, in Case of another Accident, is to become a Third Quarantine for every one. And the sick Person being assisted with the utmost Caution and Care, the Corpse is buried in Lime. Those that die in the Ship are buried in the same Manner. Of all that belongs to the Deceased, the *Prior* takes an exact Inventory in Presence of the Guardian, and two or three Witnesses ; which is adjudged by the Magistrate to the lawful Heirs. On Board the Ships, the Guardians do those Parts.

Having succinctly related the Duties of the *Prior*, which principally consist in seeing the Rules kept up to, and  
good



good Order observed ; in which is comprehended the Care of keeping the Peace in the *Lazarettos* ; of taking all Arms from Passengers, and having them separated from what they were lapt up in, and kept to be restored them at their going out ; in forbidding all noisy Sports, and especially such as might occasion any Mixture amongst the People in Quarantine ; in seeing that the Guardians, *Bastaxis*, and Victuallers, do their Duty, without using Extortion, &c. That all Animals, whether Quadrupeds or Fowls, be shut up, which might straggle, and occasion Disorder. It remains to say something of the Quality of the Purifications used in the *Lazarettos* ; that being a Point not to be by any Means omitted, and may not be a little tedious, as the Detail of them cannot be concise.

Resuming therefore the Idea already mentioned, of deducing the general Conduct from a particular one, and returning to where the Merchandize was left, when brought out of the suspected Ship, *viz.* to the Gates of the *Lazarettos*, with all the Precautions aforesaid ; they are by the *Fante*, who escorts them, delivered up to the *Prior* of the *Lazaretto*, with the Order that directs him to receive them. He directs a Place for their Purification ; directs the *Bastaxi*, appointed for that Work, to take them out of the Boat, and the Guardian to keep them in his Custody ; then causing the *Peata* that brings them, to carry them to the Shore most convenient for their Landing at the Place where they are to be purified, they are unloaded by the *Bastaxi*, who, from that Moment, together with the Guardian, are looked upon as unclean, and can have no Communication of any Sort. As many as are unloaded, a Note is taken of, and so successively till the Ship is quite cleared.



It has been said, that generally the Clerk of the Ship, or the Super-Cargo, or always one of the Ship, passes with the Merchandize to the *Lazaretto*, to make the Delivery of them; and the Reason of it is, to take back a Receipt from the *Bastazi* for all that was delivered to them, that the Whole may be restored, out of Regard to the Rules of the Health-Office, and for the Sake of Punctuality.

The Ship being entirely unloaded, they proceed to dispose the Goods in proper Places, with the necessary Distinctions: The Wool, (which is to be purified with the Forms called *à Monte*) in one Place, and what it is lapt up in, in another; the Cottons all in one Line; these made with Thread (or Linnens) in another; the Skins for Leather in another Part; and so every Head of Merchandize, separated from others, of different Sorts; and when all is thus disposed, every Thing is opened, and from that Day commences the Time of Quarantine; which always consists regularly of Forty entire Days, for Merchandizes coming from the *Levant*, and so for any others coming from Places much suspected; which is increased upon the Death, or Sickness, of any one of the *Bastaxis*, which should give any Suspicion of Infection; or if any Thing of that Kind appeared on the Ship, which had transported them. Thus from the very Day that the Unloading of the Ship terminates, the Quarantine of the Ship, and of the Crew, commences, and not otherwise.

That of the Passengers being sooner brought to a Conclusion, who, at first, pass into the *Lazarettos* with their own Wearing Apparel, as they by so doing gain the Time the Unloading of the Ship requires.

There



There are the most solid Reasons for this Proceeding ; since, that as the Office of Health is to be secure, that every Thing liable to Expurgation passes through those Tryals which Reason and Experience, for so long a Space of Time have established ; so this Point is not to be confounded.

The Evil manifests itself more easily in Persons than Things ; so that they might be subjected to less rigorous Rules than the Goods : Yet as there is no Person, but what brings with him some Things that are for his own Use ; or is at least mixed with those that do ; so the Suspicions becoming equal on this Head, the Purification required must be equal too.

These different Terms are therefore to be diligently considered : That in which the Unloading of the Ships ends ; and that in which is compleated the Transportation of the Goods to the *Lazaretto*. Since it is not sufficient that they are gone through, if it is not manifested that they are so.

For this Reason, as soon as the Passengers are brought ashore, the Guardian appointed for the Charge of them, causes to be opened all their Chests, strong Boxes, Envelops, and whatever they have with them ; of all which he takes a Note, which is called *making the Roll*. He then orders all to be exposed to the Air, if Wearing Apparel, and not Merchandize.

This being done, he gives an Account of it to the *Prior*, who is always present ; and the first registers in a Book, as well the Persons come into Quarantine, as their Things ; as  
also



also the Names of the Guardians appointed to have them in Charge. He then writes to the Magistrate, specifying the Day of their Debarkation, the very Moment in which they began to open the Chests and expose the Things to the Air; and he transmits the Roll or List aforesaid, in which is contained every Thing that requires Expurgation. If any Merchandizes are discovered in them, the Quarantine of the Passengers cannot commence, till those Merchandizes have been transported to another Place; there to go through all the Precautions and Tryals proper for them: And if no Merchandize has been found, their Quarantine commences from the Time of the Search as aforesaid. The same Person sends also another List of all the Merchandize received separately for Expurgation, nothing excepted; which denotes the Arrival of such Goods; their Quality; the Place they come from; the Vessel they were landed out of; the *Fante* who conducted them; the Time when the Unloading was begun and ended; and precisely that of the Merchandize being opened; and from thence is calculated the Term for Quarantine. In this Roll he is also obliged expressly to add, that he has had them lightly finged, or sprinkled, and entirely cleansed; and that he has afterwards diligently made the proper Examination about all the *Peatas*, which served for the Transportation of the Goods; that no Doubt may remain, that any Thing may have been left: And he is obliged to make it appear, whether the *Peatas* arrived towards Night at the *Lazarettos* (at which Time it is rigorously forbid, as is before said, to open any one of the Gates of them;) and if the Guardian and *Bastaxi* have exerted the proper Vigilance about them, as they are obliged by the Laws to do.

Besides,



Besides, the Roll that the Guardian himself sends, (who remains aboard the Ship after the Unloading is compleated) consists of many Articles ; one is, to discover, if the Captain has deposed, at his Examination, and given, in his Manifest, every Thing contained in the Ship. Another is, to have certain Knowledge, that every Thing, that was contained in it, has passed to the Place of Purification ; which appears by its being compared with that of the *Prior*.

It besides serves for a Security to the Persons concerned, for the rendring them a just Account, as the Merchandizes pass through so many Hands. A Fourth, and the most material of all, is the Certainty obtained from it, that, in the Ship itself, nothing has remained that should undergo Purification : To this End, the said Guardian certifies in that Roll, and attests (any Failure in which Point he would answer with his Life) that at such a Time the Unloading was begun, and at such a Time ended : That he has omitted no Search or Caution, and that nothing remained : And that he has exposed to the Air every Thing either belonging to the Mariners or to the Ship.

If upon these Authorities the Quarantine has commenced, and there appears afterwards any Thing on Board subject to Purification, that had been hid, this also is sent to the *Lazaretto*, with such other Merchandizes that for that End are condemned by the Rules to recommence their Quarantine ; when they have not had the Indulgence of performing it separately, but collectively ; and this, both because it is required by the Office, and also for a Punishment for such Roguery having  
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been



been carried on ; which does not stop there, but renders subject to Chastisement, whoever was the Concealer.

For what regards the Quarantine of Passengers, and of the Vessel, when they have begun it in this Method, and it continues without any Accident intervening ; I need not add, that it is regularly brought to an End. But if any Sickness happens, I have already given an Account of the Conduct that is in that Case observed.

Something must be added about Goods. I have already observed, when I said they are disposed differently upon their Receipt into the *Lazarettos*, that they are also differently treated.

Therefore 'tis necessary to say somewhat of that. Wooll and Woollen Goods are the chief Things, of which two Sorts arrive : One Sort is called *Lane Succide*, because they come just as they were taken from the Animals when shorn : The others are called *Lane Pelate*, i. e. such as are taken from the Hide of the Animal when dead, by the Means of Lime. Both of them are put *à Monte*, which is a Form mentioned before. Putting Things *à Monte*, is as much as to say, taking them out of the Bags or Cases they were in, and laying them in Heaps of about Four Feet high, with some Distance between each Heap, that they may the better be come at to be handled : And the handling of them, consists in removing them from one Place to another every Day ; in often stirring them, and heaping them up again in the same Manner ; so that at the End of the Forty Days, there be a Certainty that no Lock of the Wooll has been untouched. All the Wooll may be treated in the same Manner ;



Manner ; but the first Sort is usually examined with the greater Care ; for as they consist of the Fleece, that is, of the entire Wooll as taken from the Body of the Animal, they are most carefully searched, Thread by Thread ; and thus, at the same Time that they are purified, they are also cleaned. By which Care, the Proprietors of them save the Pains and Trouble they must afterwards have been at to cleanse them. And this Care is also sufficient, and especially as at the Time of putting them again in the Bags, another Tryal is made.

The same Form is observed for all Silks, Linnens, Raw Silks, Ferret, Ribond, and such like, emptying them in a scattered Manner in Heaps, and then Bale by Bale separately, handling them twice a Day, and every Week removing them to another Place.

Other Goods, such as Cottons, Thread, Camels Hair, and Castor, which come in Bags, are differently purified ; for the Bags are unfowed from one End to another in the Middle, and so they are left open for Half the Time of Quarantine, that is, for the Space of Twenty Days, being every Day handled by the *Bastazi*, who put in their naked Arms in all Parts of them, as they are moved daily, so that no Part of them can be unhandled. The Twenty Days being expired, in which is not included the Day they were opened, the Sacks are turned, and unfowed on the other Side, and they are handled in the same Manner, till the Expiration of the Forty Days, in which is not reckoned the Day they were turn'd ; for which Ceremony, there are required a Notice from the *Prior*, and a particular Order from the Magistrate ; and this being done, they set about fowing them up again, and they are accounted clean.



All other Goods, *viz.* Camblets, Mohairs, Cloaths, and every Thing else that comes folded in Pieces, are first loosened and undone ; that Fold by Fold the naked Arms of the *Bastazi* may rummage them, and then they are moved about from Place to Place ; and those that are uppermost one Day, are the next Day moved to the Bottom : The same Thing is done to Woollen Cloaths. But when any of the above Things come from infected Parts, over and above the aforesaid Precautions, they are also stretched out upon Ropes, in the open Air, turning and handling them every Day. The Sorts of Stuff called Felt, Quilts for Beds, Rugs, Thick Coverlids ; those made of Lambs Wooll, Carpets, Capots, and, in general, every Thing made of Wooll and Silk, Books and Flax, Parchment, all Kinds of Paper, Hair Sacks, or Linnen Bags, and such Things, remain continually exposed to the Air, and are continually handled ; and the *Bastazi's* are even obliged to sleep amongst some of them. Skins, being the most dangerous, are purified with a most exact Attention, exposing them to the Air, and continually handling them ; so also Hair for Wigs, and Pens, or Fans of Feathers ; which, Bundle by Bundle, are also exposed, and are twice a Day handled and rummaged, as being looked upon to be the most difficult to be fully purified. Tobacco, *Morocco* Leather, Damasks, &c. and all Sorts of dry Skins, which have been properly dressed and cured, are sent all *à Monte*, and are all handled : But being thought to be Things rather less susceptible, such Kind of Merchandize generally are allowed the Indulgence of but Half Quarantine.

There is another Kind of Quarantine for Wax and Spunges, being thrown into Running Water, and left to soak there 48 Hours, and then they are clear, there being a particular Guardian



dian and Water near the Place for that Use: However, Wax and Tallow Candles must go through a full Quarantine, because of the Cotton in them. But if it is agreed to have them soaked in Water, they are cleared. All Woolly Animals perform the full Quarantine of Merchandizes. Those that have short Hair are passed through Water, and so purified. Feathered Animals must be sprinkled often with Vinegar, so as to be quite wet through, and are then free.

Having now described the Kinds of Goods that by their own Nature are subject to very exact Expurgation, there remains to mention another Kind, which, though not so of itself, becomes so from Circumstances: Of this Sort are salted Buffalo's Hides, which come from *Constantinople*, *Alexandria*, &c. which, when salted, and very moist, may be delivered out; but when dry, and ill soaked, they go through the full Quarantine of Goods. The Wild Safran, which is in itself looked upon as free, might be also delivered out; yet, as it is apt to grow mealy, the Consideration of its being lapt up in Cases, subjects it to a Quarantine; and consequently every Thing in general incurs Expurgation, which cannot, or must not be separated from its Envelop.

It has been said, that there are many Things that may be taken away from the Ships, or out of the *Lazarettos*, i. e. all Things of a Nature not susceptible, and that come loose, or else come inclosed in such Things as are free, being probably purified by the volatile Nature of what they contain.



Of the first Kind are all Corn, Vallonia, Salt, Flax-Seed, and other Seeds, Marble, Minerals, Wood, Earth for Looking-Glasses, Gold Dust, Rock Alum, Vitriol, Elephants Teeth, &c. Of the second Kind are, Sugars, Cheeses, Fruits green and dry, Kernels of Pine Apples, Salt Fish and Flesh, or Fish and Flesh Smoak dried, &c. Potargo, Drugs, Colours, and every Thing of that Kind, which can be separated from their Envelops. Of the third Sort are all Kind of Liquors, Brandies, Oils, Wines, which may be taken out; and when it is acknowledged that they are so, they are secured with Rosin over the Corks, which serves to certify that they are free. Raisins, Ashes, and Rosin or Pitch itself, though they come in Envelops or in Vessels, yet in the Hope that the Spirits within destroys all Suspicions, or repels any bad Effluvia, or the Effects of Contact, it is only required to rip the Bags and Envelops, and to tar the Seams of them, and they may be taken out.

Such Things may be taken out, if the Merchant's Necessity requires it; or else every Thing coming in Envelops performs Quarantine; the Envelops performing it, though emptied of their Contents; though the most refined Precautions are not required, if they are but a little handled, and exposed to Air. Yet most of the Deliveries of such Things are performed at the *Lazarettos*, that it may be done with the greater Circumspection, considering that Things, very free of themselves, may however be put up and mixed with something subject to Quarantine: As for Instance, Pistacchio-Nuts, Coffee, amongst which Cotton is frequently



frequently found ; so that when such Things happen, they cannot be cleared.

Such are the Precautions used in the *Lazarettos*, towards all Persons and Things which come from suspected Countries ; proportioned to the greater or less Cause of Suspicion : Since, in the most dangerous Cases, the Method is the same, the Term only longer.

The ordinary Term being ended without any Accident of any Sort, the *Prior* concludes his Incumbences with sending separate Testimonials, wherein he certifies, That on such a Day commenced the Quarantine of the Persons, and such a Day that of the Goods : That the proper Precautions have been used in opening them, emptying them out, &c. And that the Term of Forty Days expires on such a Day, no Accident having happened. The Guardian on Ship-board sends a like Testimonial ; and on the Day free Communication is to be given to the Ship, Persons, or Merchandizes, it is granted them : Which Testimonial the Magistrate subscribes, and the *Fante* is Bearer of it ; taking Care, that it tallies exactly with all the Steps and Rules of the *Lazarettos*, and especially with the Order issued to the Clerk of the Office of Health.

In Case any Sickness or Disorders have happened ; though they have been already communicated from Time to Time, the *Prior* and the Guardian must in that Testimonial repeat the Mention of them ; that it may tally with the Reports made by the First Physician, who registers all his Visits, and makes himself Master of the Cases that have happened, without waiting for the



the Time of the Patient's being at Liberty, to apply what is proper for the Cure of the most grievous Complaints.

Such is the Conduct held in the *Lazarettos*, the Effects of which have been found so beneficial; but the good Management of which depends upon the Concert being kept up between so many different Precautions. I hope I have now discharged what my Orders required, *viz.* To describe, or give an Idea of the Functions of the Health Office, taken from the constant Practice here.

## F I N I S.





629











