

NEW-YORK.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26.

Number of Burials in this city for 24 hours ending yesterday evening, 41—40 of the fever.

ONE HUNDRED and NINETY-FOUR new cases of the prevailing fever, were reported at Philadelphia for 48 hours, ending Monday at noon, by 18 physicians.

AT this time of distress and alarm, when a deadly pestilence is laying waste some of our most populous and wealthy cities, the inhabitants of town and country are anxiously inquiring, what are the causes? What the means of prevention or of cure? Why has not this deadly fever raged before? Are our cities to be afflicted with it every year?

Astonishing as the fact may appear, there is not a history of the plague in existence. Of the most awful calamity that befalls the human race; a calamity of which probably more persons have perished, since the Christian era, than there are now on the globe, no regular account has ever been written; and some of the most important phenomena of epidemic and pestilential diseases, are not known even to the most eminent medical men in Europe. For want of attending to these phenomena, even a Mead and a Cullen embraced the most egregious errors respecting the causes of pestilential diseases, and on those errors have been built systems of regulations, and laws of quarantine, for preserving public health, that are almost entirely useless, and in many states and kingdoms, inhuman and barbarous.

It has fallen to my lot to write a brief account of pestilential diseases, from such materials as can be found in this country; and to discover a number of important principles respecting the origin and progress of epidemics. To satisfy my fellow citizens, who are involved in distress, and seeking for consolation, as to some of their anxious enquiries, I here offer to them a few observations, which are the results of my investigation.

1. Pestilential diseases of all kinds usually originate where they exist. A few doubtful cases on a small scale may be exceptions; but I have demonstrative evidence that most diseases of a contagious nature are the fruit of the soil in which they are found. The means of prevention, therefore, are not to be found in Quarantine Laws.

2. Pestilential epidemics are progressive in their malignity, and several of them usually follow in a series or order—such as catarrh or influenza, measles, anginas, or disorders of the throat, spotted fever, yellow fever or plague. The yellow fever or plague never appears as far as I can discover, without some one or all of the other diseases for precursors. Something like the order of the influenza, measles and scarlet fever, in these states, from 1763 to 1795, is always observable before all the plagues that have infested the old world.

3. In addition to malignant diseases, as the dysentery and violent bilious remittents, from marsh effluvia, which may be local, and occasioned by peculiar seasons, there are certain periods, when pestilential diseases, invade whole quarters of the globe, nearly at the same time, and sometimes both hemispheres. A remarkable instance of this happened from 1759 to 1763, when Egypt, Syria, all Europe and America, experienced a great increase of mortality. Two or three instances have occurred since, but the epidemics were less fatal.

4. The duration of these pestilential periods is various, from five to ten, fifteen and even twenty years. Intervals of health are also of very various duration. The bills of mortality in London from 1718 to 1742, were, on an average more than twenty per cent. higher than they have ever been since; owing to a continued series of mortal epidemics. In America, no formidable pestilential disease appeared from 1762, to 1791, a period of twenty nine years—an unusually long period of health. The dysentery of 1776 and 7 was the most destructive disease experienced in that long interval.—The scarlet fever spread in 1785 and 6, but was lighter than usual. From 1791 to the present time, we have felt severe sickness, and how long this pestilential period will endure, God only knows.

5. But let us not despair! After the close of this sickly period, health will again revisit our cities, as it now does the country. The scarlet fever spread from New-York in 1792 to Maine in 1796, and has finished its course, leaving the country in usual health. The dreadful plague that now scourges our cities is probably the effect of the great and all subduing heat of the last two months; and it is more than probable that the succeeding

winter and summer may be temperate and healthy. Such a winter and summer as the last, are uncommon.

6. To those who ask, why this pestilence never appeared in former times, I answer, it did. In certain periods, when great plagues have raged in the East, the yellow fever has prevailed in America, from the first settlement of the country by the English. Nay more it affected and wasted the Indian tribes before the settlement of New England by the English. At least 30,000 Indians perished by the yellow fever in the year 1618 of this fact I have authentic testimony. It is therefore the natural plague of our climate.

Instead of being a new disease, or imported from the West Indies, it appeared on this continent before the islands were settled by the English, and as frequently before any trade was opened between this continent and the islands, as it has since. Only thirteen years after Massachusetts was settled, a pestilential autumnal fever carried off one fifth of the Plymouth planters. This was in 1633. In 1645 a similar fever raged among the Indians at Martha's Vineyard. In 1647, a similar fever prevailed in Connecticut. In 1651 and 1662 similar diseases swept away many people. In 1668, a pestilential disease prevailed in New-York. In 1699 the yellow-fever was as malignant in Philadelphia, as it is this season; this was but seventeen years after the place was settled, and when it contained few people. In the same summer, the disease was so fatal in Charleston, that most of the principal people died, and the survivors almost abandoned the place.

In 1702 the Yellow Fever raged in New-York, and an eruptive fever was nearly as fatal in Boston, in 1698. The Yellow Fever raged in Charleston in 1728 and in 1732; and again in 1739. In 1741 the same disease raged in Philadelphia and in Virginia. In 1743, in New-York—in 1745, again at Charleston. In 1746 in Albany. In 1747, again in Philadelphia—and also in 1762. The same disease swept away almost all the Indians on Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard in 1763. The same disease, in its milder form appeared in Philadelphia in 1778.

These facts may satisfy inquiries on this head. From authentic histories of plague for two thousand two hundred years, I can assure my fellow citizens, that it is rare for cities between the latitudes of 32 and 45; to escape malignant pestilential diseases for 30 years, at any one time. Generally, once in twelve or fifteen years, a series of epidemics spread over the whole world. In healthy positions, this pestilential state of air is limited in malignity to measles, and scarletina—in other positions, it extends to small pox and petechial fever—in large cities and less healthy situations, it often runs into the plague.—This has been the fact uniformly from the days of Hippocrates.

This pestilential state of air is evinced by the catarrh or influenza, which during the period of contagion, appears in a whole hemisphere, at once and sometimes over the whole globe, seizing people on this continent, in the West-Indies and on the ocean at the same time. This epidemic is usually followed by great mortality in the succeeding years. To this fact, there is hardly an exception in the three last centuries, before which period our accounts of that disease are few and imperfect.

This general pestilence is of various degrees of violence. Sometimes it appears in a milder form and is confined to a few places, as in New-York in 1795 and 6—at others, it becomes universal, and mows down mankind, with undistinguishing severity, as in the present year. In two or three instances, since the Christian era, it has been so violent, as to attack men in scattered cottages on the healthiest hills and mountains, without any communications with the diseased. It has raged sometimes through the winter, and two or three times has invaded the inhabitants of Iceland and Greenland.

From these few facts, which stand on unquestionable authority, and which I am preparing in detail for the press, the people of the United States, will judge how far they are to expect repetitions of this distressing malady. For their consolation, it appears that our cities will not be continually harassed with this autumnal fever. Periods of health will occur—sometimes of longer and sometimes of shorter duration. Then will occur a series of epidemics and our cities will be laid waste with pestilence. This has been the case from the date of our earliest histories to this day, and we have no right to expect the laws of the Universe are to be now changed.

Great good effects however may be brot by introducing different modes of constructing our houses—by changes in diet and habits of bathing, and by the use of fresh running water in cities. The water beneath a city should never be used for drink. It is probable that such changes in Europe have very much mitigated the severity of mortal diseases in the large cities, within the present century. Yet they are all occasionally visited with malignant fevers, that fall but one grade below the plague. Our present mode of building cities, and our present habits of living, will not suffer us to escape pestilence. We are precisely in the latitude most obnoxious to autumnal pestilence; and if New-York, Philadelphia, Boston and Baltimore continue to increase on the present mode of constructions till they equal cities of the first or second rate in Europe, it is their inevitable doom to be ravaged with the plague, as often as Cairo or Constantinople.

It is to be observed, however, that with a very few exceptions, since the days of Moses, the plague is exclusively the scourge of cities or populous towns. It is, in ordinary cases, entirely in human power to avoid this dreadful calamity—every commercial city might be so laid out and constructed, as to be even more healthy than the country. But ignorance and interest forbid us to indulge the expectation of ever realizing such a prospect.

There is nothing new in the horrors of the present plague. The same scenes have happened in every period of a few years, from the days of Homer. *Arms and cities* are continually exposed to pestilence, and always have been. The present sickness will subside and soon be forgotten, and men will proceed in the same round of folly and vice. All our habits will continue—and the same practice of piling together buildings, accumulating filth, and destroying fresh air, and preparing new and more abundant materials for pestilence, which will continue to assume greater virulence and to prove more destructive to human life, in proportion to the magnitude of our cities. If more wisdom should be exerted in America, it will be a glorious but an unexpected event.

N. WEBSTER.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27.

Number of deaths in this city for 24 hours ending yesterday evening, 60—58 of the fever.

Number of Burials in Philadelphia for 24 hours ending Tuesday noon, Adults, 74—Children, 6.

EIGHTY FIVE new cases of the prevailing fever were reported for the 24 hours ending Tuesday at noon, by 14 physicians.

New-London, Sept. 24.

Eight new cases of the prevailing fever since our last, 32 now sick, 5 only dangerous.

THE causes and the remedies for mortal epidemics are subjects of solicitous inquiry among all descriptions of citizens. The remedies belong to professional men—the causes are proper objects of investigation, among the learned and curious of all professions.

Epidemic diseases, properly so called, depend not on local or visible causes. Such are measles, catarrh, whooping cough, scarlet fever—they invade mankind in every situation—and the contagious, yet they spread also without contagion, and independent of human control. Why one of these diseases should originate and spread over a country this year and not the next, is a mystery that is not yet unfolded. Efforts have been made to resolve them into the peculiarities of seasons; but the history of such epidemics will soon convince a candid inquirer, that they cannot be ascribed to any visible changes of weather or seasons. They prevail in all seasons—in winter and in summer—in cold or warm—in wet or dry weather.

The causes however must be as extensive as the effects—and the universality of an epidemic in one country or in more, proves that it must originate in some unknown properties of the atmosphere above or of the water beneath us. When we observe the measles or angina break forth in America and in England, about the same time, or when we see cats in England, France and America, perishing with a pestilence, nearly at one and the same time, we are driven from the untenable ground of propagation by contagion, to seek for a general cause existing in the elements. Such is the fact with many epidemics. Had this fact been attended to by medical men, we should have had fewer volumes to prove a disease contagious, which

no man denies to be so, and prescribe modes of preventing the introduction of disease from foreign countries, which are generated at home.

But, in strictness of speech, the plague of yellow fever, is not an epidemic. It has assumed that form in a few instances and spread over all countries, visiting villages as well as cities. But, in its useful form, it is an endemic—a disease altogether local, being limited to populous cities and towns. This circumstance is important, in treating of the causes of this disease. Epidemics that spread over the world without contagion for every case, must have a general cause. But the plague, being usually confined to particular places, must have local causes.

(To be Continued.)

We wait most anxiously for the arrival from Europe which shall develop the views of the French government in the operation of the present summer. Should no attempt be made to invade England, the nation will find themselves again duped by their lordly Directory, who solicited and obtained a heavy loan and contributions for that express purpose. If the Directory have availed themselves of such a popular pretext to get money, and then divert it to some less popular use, the lenders of the money will complain; but all in vain—their necks are under the yoke, and they may as well submit as to grumble.

The taking of Malta is another instance of perfidy of which the present government has furnished more instances, than all the Kings in Europe for half a century. The conduct of France is even worse than perfidious—it is mean and cowardly. It does not even give a people a chance to defend themselves. The French troops steal into the territories intended to be conquered, by lying and deceit. They pretend friendship, while they are secretly betraying the unsuspecting people. Never have dissimulation, perfidy, treachery, and meanness, been carried to such a length, and never practised with such unblushing effrontery, as by Republican France. The crimes of despotic governments are cast into the back ground of the picture by the shameless crimes of the Directory.

It is a most gratifying circumstance to all true friends of their country, to hear of the great and decided revolution of opinions in the Southern States. The choice of Representatives to Congress in North Carolina is evidence of such a revolution, and we believe other proofs will soon appear. The people of the Southern States, from their remote situation from the seat of government, and their scattered position, have fewer means of information, than the northern people. Few newspapers circulate among them, and those few, are mostly small, and cannot contain the more ample discussions of great political questions, which appear in daily papers in the middle and northern states. The people at the Southward depend greatly for information on the communications from their representatives, during the sessions of Congress; and most of them have been in opposition to government, it is easy to believe, their communications would favor that opposition.

We trust that facts at last have opened the eyes of a great majority of the Southern people, and we are confident no men in America will be found more steady, firm and brave defenders of their country's rights and independence.

It appears by a communication under the Norfolk head, dated the 18th inst. that the ship *Niger*, taken by the U. S. frigate *Constitution*, Capt. Nicholson, lately, and most probably now belongs to a gentleman, who, previous to the evacuation of Port-au-Prince by the English, resided, and was a partner to a mercantile house in Norfolk.—Captain N's intentions certainly were praise-worthy; but it is conjectured that the capturing of this vessel may prove somewhat disagreeable.

An Address of the GRAND LODGE of FREE and ACCEPTED MASONS of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in ample form assembled, at a Quarterly Communication, in Boston, June 11, A. D. 1798.

To the President of the United States.

SIR,

Flattery, and a discussion of political opinions, are inconsistent with the principles of this ancient fraternity; but while we are bound to cultivate benevolence, and extend the arm of charity to our brethren of every clime, we feel the strongest obligations, to support the civil authority which protects us. And when the illiberal attacks of a foreign enthusiast, aided by the unfounded prejudices of his followers, are tending to embarrass the public mind, with respect to the real views of our society, we think it our duty to join in full concert with our fellow citizens, in expressions of gratitude to the supreme architect of the universe, for endowing you with that wisdom, patriotic firmness, and integrity, which has characterised your public conduct.

While the independence of our country and the operation of just and equal laws, have contributed to enlarge the sphere of social happiness, we rejoice that our Masonic brethren, throughout the United States, have discovered by their conduct, a zeal to promote the public welfare, and that many of them have been conspicuous for their talents,

and unwearied exertions. Among those, your predecessor is the most illustrious example—and the memory of our beloved WARREN, who from the chair of this Grand Lodge, has often urged the members, to the exercise of patriotism and philanthropy, and who sealed his principles with his blood; shall ever animate us to a laudable imitation of his virtues.

Sincerely we deprecate the calamities of war, and have fervently wished success to every effort for the preservation of peace.—But, Sir, if we disregard the blessings of liberty, we are unworthy to enjoy them. In vain have our statesmen labored in their public assemblies, and by their midnight tapors, in vain have our mountains and valleys been stained with the blood of our heroes, if we want firmness to repel the assaults of every presumptuous invader. And while, as citizens of a free republic, we engage our utmost exertions in the cause of our country, and offer our services to protect the fair liberties of our ancestors; as Masons, we will cultivate the precepts of our institution, and alleviate the miseries of all who by the fortune of war, or the ordinary occurrences of life, are the proper objects of our attention.

Long may you continue a patron of the useful arts and an ornament of the present generation.—May you finish your public labors with an approving conscience, and be gathered to the sepulchre of your fellow patriots with the benedictions of your countrymen; and finally may you be admitted to that celestial temple, where all national distinctions are lost in undissembled friendship and universal peace.

JOSEPH BARTLETT, Grand Master.
SAMUEL DUNN, D. G. Master.
JOS. LAUGHTON, } G. Wardens.
WM LITTLE, }
Attest. DANIEL OLIVER, G. Sec'y.

A N S W E R.

GENTLEMEN,

ASI never had the honor to be one of your ancient fraternity, I feel myself under the greater obligation to you for this respect and affectionate address. Many of my best friends have been Masons, and two of them my professional patron, the learned GRIDLEY, and my intimate friend, your immortal WARREN, whose life and death were lessons and examples of patriotism and philanthropy, were Grand Masters; yet so it has happened, that I never had the felicity to be initiated. Such examples as these and a greater still in my venerable predecessor, would have been sufficient to induce me to hold the institution and fraternity, in esteem and honor, as favorable to the support of civil authority, if I had not known, their love of the fine arts, their delight in hospitality, and devotion to humanity.

Your indulgent opinion of my conduct, and your benevolent wishes, for the fortunate termination of my public labors, have my sincere thanks.

The public engagements of your utmost exertions in the cause of your country, and the offer of your services to protect the fair inheritance of your ancestors are proofs that you are not chargeable with those designs, the imputation of which in other parts of the world have embarrassed the public mind, with respect to the real views of your society.

JOHN ADAMS.

Philadelphia, June 22.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23.

Number of deaths in this city for 24 hours ending yesterday evening, 60—47 of the fever.

Number of Burials in Philadelphia for 24 hours ending Wednesday at noon, Adults, 7—Children, 5.

NINETY FIVE new cases of the prevailing fever were reported for the 24 hours ending Wednesday at noon, by 14 physicians.

The promised Extracts by the Fanny Capt. Braine, from Greenock, will be found in this day's paper. Our readers will find under the Paris head of July 21, a Letter from Talleyrand to Mr. Gerry, on the delivery of his passport.—We will continue to select from our file what may appear interesting.

THE subscribers being appointed by the Corporation of the city of New-York, a Committee to afford relief to the indigent and distressed sick in this city, beg leave to state to their fellow-citizens and others, that the Common Council being informed that the numbers of persons who were sick of the prevailing epidemic had become so numerous and were still increasing; that the Commissioners of the Health Office, could not take care of all of them and that the accommodations at Bellevue were insufficient and that many of the poor sick were so circumstanced as to render a removal thereof by the Commissioners of the Health Office both inconvenient and improper, did on Monday the 3rd inst. appoint the subscribers, Gabriel Farman, John B. Coles, Theophilus Beekman, Jacob de la Montagne and Richard Farman, five of the Aldermen, and John Bogert and Phillip J. Arcularius, two of the assistants, Committee of their own Board, denominated the Health Committee of the City of New-York with full powers to make such further building and accommodations for the sick at Bellevue, as they with the advice of the Commissioners of the Health Office, might think necessary; and to take into their charge

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