

LONDON.

The Yellow Fever at Philadelphia.

From the Gentleman's Magazine.

SO many different opinions have prevailed respecting the origin of its symptoms and medical treatment, that, at this moment, conjecture is nearly as vague as when the relation of the prevalence of the disease was first communicated.

In any sudden catastrophe, or strange phenomenon, the mind is apt to adduce the first obvious cause to explain an effect. The Philadelphians, inexperienced in the calamities of pestilence, and agitated by its rapidity, ascribed what was so deeply felt within themselves to some circumstance immediately within their own contemplation; and they, for a *nouvelle* disease, searching for a *nouvelle* cause, the French refugees from St. Domingo, who amounted to about 10,000 persons within the limits of Philadelphia, were referred to in the present dilemma; at the same time, these very people, except the youth, were the healthiest residents in the city, scarcely excluding the negroes, who braved infection almost with impunity. The Philadelphians had but just assumed the language of investigation, before they saw the utility of ascribing an effect to a cause that only existed in conjecture: they relinquished the emigrants of Hispaniola for damaged coffee, putrid vegetables, and other sources equally futile. I exculpate the affrighted Americans; they were, and are at this moment I believe, ignorant of the origin, and early progress of this infectious disease, and naturally sought for causes within their immediate investigation. Its origin I presume to explain, not so much with a view to gratify curiosity as, by a detail of its rapid extension in a climate parallel with our own, to excite that alarm, which may inspire precaution, and produce means of prevention. In the following detail, I may not be perfectly accurate as to dates within a day or two; but I trust this will not invalidate the general accuracy of the following relations.

About two years ago, a number of deluded persons of this kingdom, and chiefly inhabitants of this city, among whom a spirit of enterprize is prevalent, adopted the scheme of forming a settlement on the uncultivated island of Bulam off the continent of Africa. They embarked without the suitable requisites for the occasion, without positing the least claim to the place of their destined inheritance. Various distresses supervened arrival, and sickness soon dissipated their hopes, and thinned their numbers; and to augment calamities, the Africans resenting this encroachment upon their territories, attacked the improvident invaders. Some got to Sierra Leona; the remnant purchased the precarious liberty of settlement. With ruined fortunes and disappointed projects, this miserable remnant at length sailed from this seat of disease and famine in the *Hankey*, Captain Cox, to Grenada. The vessel arrived off Grenada about the middle of February, and anchored at some distance from the tier of shipping. At this period there was no prevailing disease among the shipping, or upon the whole island of Grenada. In a few days the *Hankey* was brought nearer to land, and moored in the tier of merchantmen. On the very next day a sailor in the next ship adjoining the *Hankey* showed symptoms of fever; and soon after many others were attacked in a similar manner; and early in April, a considerable part of the white inhabitants of Grenada laboured under the disease, and by the end of August one half of the inhabitants fell victims to it.

Most of the miserable passengers from Bulam died in the course of the voyage. The survivors not only came ashore, but the cloaths of the deceased passengers were actually landed. It was indeed, early observed that, so great was the mortality among those who visited the *Hankey*, that at length none but negroes, who were very little liable to this fever, administered to the necessities of the ship: for the original crew was nearly extinct.

From Grenada it visited Tobago, where it was more fatal than at the former island, and some time afterward it appeared at Antigua, and likewise at St. Kitts. In this history of the progress of the disease, it is certain, that these islands were infected before the disease was noticed in Philadelphia, as will be further proved.

Antigua, although one of a cluster of about 60 islands, is, I believe, void, or nearly so, of any springs of water: It is peculiarly dry, and depends upon the clouds for the supply of this essential fluid, which is preserved in casks for domestic use. Here, however the disease was not less fatal than at Grenada,

both among the inhabitants and the seamen. Wherever the disease appeared, it spread rapidly, whether the island was low or high, moist or dry; and not only so, but among seamen unconnected with the land; a remarkable instance of which occurred in the Experiment man of war, off English harbour in Antigua. Not having her compliment of guns, she at this time, only had 100 seamen on board, all in health; in making the harbour, she drifted so much that Capt. Kelly, then in port sent off his long boat to her assistance. The next day one of the Experiment's men was attacked with this fever, and on the succeeding day another. This alarmed the commanding officer, who deeming the sea air might prove salubrious, and stop the progress of the infection, put off to sea: in vain however, was this apparently judicious conduct; before a week was elapsed, he returned with extreme difficulty, from the sickness of his crew, to the English harbor, whence he drew the original poison.

It is evident, from the best information, conveyed by numerous letters from Philadelphia, and from the accurate publication of Matthew Carey, one of the surviving committee men of this city, that the appearance of this infectious disease was some months after the arrival of the *Hankey* at Grenada; for Dr. Hodge's child was the first victim of it at Philadelphia, and he was attacked on the 26th or 27th of July, and died on the 25th of August.

The only French ship which the Americans suspected of infection, was, the privateer *Sans Culottes* Marfellois, with her prize the *Flora*, which arrived at Philadelphia the 22d of July. A few days prior, arrived a vessel from Tobago, which had lost nearly all her hands by a malignant fever. In the river she shipped fresh hands, many of whom died. From this ship the Americans received the fatal poison.

From the relations hereto communicated to us, the disease transplanted from Bulam to Grenada was essentially the same as that likewise so fatal at Philadelphia. The yellow tinge of the skin, the symptoms and event, and the sameness of the victims, all combine to convey this conviction. The unhappy Frenchmen, driven from St. Domingo, and inhabiting a part of Philadelphia analogous to our Wapping, were next to the negroes most exempt from this very disease, which they have been falsely accused of propagating. The negroes of the English West-India Islands, like those of the American continent, marched through the infected ranks almost with impunity. The island of Hispaniola, and I believe every other French island, has escaped the ravages of this febrile poison; and hence, from every consideration, I am bold to conclude, that with neither Frenchmen nor Americans did it originate, but from Englishmen alone, driven from the impure island of Bulam, in the manner, and under such circumstances, as I have already stated.

It is unnecessary here to advert to the incessant intercourse between the little American barks, and all the Atlantic ocean, in carrying flour, slaves, cattle, and provisions, to every key and creek.

It is remarkable, that although (and I speak it upon indubitable authority) one half of the whites of Grenada and Tobago have died; we have heard less rumour or alarm in London, about this dreadful fatality in our own colonies, than from America. It may perhaps be owing to various circumstances: although this fever has been certainly different in some respects from the common-yellow fever of the West-Indies, yet at the same time that there existed much analogy, less wonder and terror would be excited in these islands than on the continent, where its novelty and fatality must be terrible to the imagination; and so it proved; for without doubt, many were deserted the moment disease appeared, as victims not only of certain death, but of deadly contagion.

The fleet which loads in the West-Indies, especially in the time of war, when under convoy, seldom arrives in Europe till midsummer, so that the full relation from the islands is sometimes anticipated by arrivals from the American Continent. These circumstances, and the greater frequency of sickness and fatality, in the West-Indies, and consequently less agitation, on the present event, may have occasioned the comparative silence from a quarter where the deaths have been really proportionally higher than on the continent.

It has been noticed, that the symptoms and fatality were so similar as to authenticate the sameness of infection.

We have not been favored with any dissections of the victims of it. Dr.

Physic, and another medical gentleman, mentions the stomach, as exhibiting the most obvious marks of disease, the viscera being very much inflamed, and particularly the Cardia. The substance of the liver did not appear much diseased, but the gall bladder was greatly distended, and the acrimony of the bile so violent as to excoriate the skin wherever it came in contact.

The dissections in the West-Indies speak chiefly of the turgeescence of their liver and gall bladder, and mention the acrimony as less considerable, but in a great measure exonerate the stomach from any inflammation of the viscera, as it appeared in Philadelphia, it might arise from the acrimony of the bile, and the efforts and action in vomiting.

As to the treatment of the disease, the physicians in Philadelphia as widely differ as the antiphlogistic and cordial treatments.

Some physicians, who are said to have been very successful gave opium, antimony and calomel, to act upon the skin; but whether any beneficial effect would be derived from mercury, in an acute state of the disease, is not ascertained, tho' sweating from the above combination might seem salutary.

Professor Kuhn informed me by letter, that when he had been consulted, within 24 hours from the attack, he found bark wine and cordials, in general successful; but that, if his mode of treatment was not adopted by the 4th day, his patients uniformly died.

The accounts from the West-Indies, prove that evacuations upwards and downwards, with diluting nutrition and fluids, were salutary; venesection was however avoided.

Captain Simes assured me, that whilst his vessel lay off Grenada, 17 of his crew, out of 28 infected, recovered by this treatment; and I had a similar information by a gentleman from Antigua, who left that island in November last, when the disease was still prevalent.

I enquired particularly, whether free drinkers were less liable to the disease; but here no certainty could be ascertained, as several instances were recollected of families and lodging houses, in which the fatality was frequently greater among the intemperate; and on the other hand, where these almost alone escaped.

All agreed that strangers, and those who were young particularly, were more liable to catch the fever, except among the French in Philadelphia; who, although strangers in the Continent, were naturalized to the West-India climate.

UNITED STATES.

RICHMOND, July 16.

By the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS I have received information that some wicked and evil disposed person or persons, whose names are unknown, did on the night of the 20th of June last, feloniously steal and take away TWO CHILDREN of PEGGY HOWELL, a free mulatto, living in the County of Charlotte with a design as it is supposed, to sell them in some of the neighbouring States as slaves (the names and description of the children are contained in the Hue and Cry subjoined:) And whereas the rights of humanity are deeply interested in the restoration of the children to their parent—and the order of society is involved in the punishment of the offenders—I do by the advice of the Council of State, issue this my Proclamation, offering a reward of Fifty Dollars for the recovery of each of the said children, and the further sum of One Hundred Dollars for apprehending and securing in the public jail of Charlotte County the offenders.

Given under my hand, as Governor and under the Seal of the (SEAL) Commonwealth in the Council Chamber at Richmond, this 8th day of July, one thousand seven hundred and ninety four.

HENRY LEE.

N. B. The children were both boys, between 4 & 5 years old, stout & well made: One named Peter Toney, The other Edmund Booker.

LITCHFIELD, July 9.

On Friday the Fourth of July inst. a numerous circle of citizens and strangers, convened at Mr. Buel's where was prepared an elegant entertainment, in commemoration of the Independence of the United States—His Hon. the Lieut. Governor, the chief justice of the state, and other eminent characters, honored the day—Sober care neither furrow'd the brow, nor was noisy riot exhausted in revelling: The festival was conducted rationally, and with proper decorum—After a plentiful feast, the annexed toasts were drank, viz.

1. The day we celebrate.
2. Perpetual Independence to the United States.

3. The Constitution of the United States.
4. The preservation of the Federal Government.
5. The President of the United States.
6. The Vice-President of the United States.
7. The Congress of the United States.
8. The Secretary of the Treasury.
9. Our envoy extraordinary at the court of G. Britain.
10. The Connecticut Delegation in Congress.
11. The Governor and state of Connecticut.
12. Unanimity in our national councils.
13. Energy without oppression in the government of all nations.
14. Honorable peace between the U. States and all nations.
15. Peace throughout the world.

At evening, the fair mingled in the wholesome festivity at a splendid ball. The silken sheen and comely robe was theirs.—The Rights of Women usurped attention, and were politely adhered to; so that discord did not dare to open its 'thousand various mouths,' and the night passed off pleasantly. To excite a fullness of joy, a little wine was cautiously applied to the heart.—About the hour of relaxation, as if by inspiration on the occasion, the birds sang together for joy.—Thus ended the Anniversary of Independence.

PITTSBURGH, July 12.

The Anniversary of the Independence of the United States of America, was celebrated on the 4th inst. by the inhabitants of this town, on Grant's Hill. An Oration was delivered by Mr. Brackenridge, after which they sat down to an entertainment provided for the occasion, when the following toasts were drank, each accompanied by a discharge from a double fortified six pounder.

1. The 4th of July; the Important Day which gave Freedom to America, and an example to the rest of the world.
2. The United States; may her citizens support by their virtue, what they acquired by their fortitude.
3. Both Houses in Congress; may neither interest nor prejudice affect their councils.
4. The illustrious WASHINGTON—may America never forget her Hero and her Statesman—3 cheers.
5. The Republic of France; may her battles terminate in victories, and her government be speedily established on principles of perfect freedom—3 cheers.
6. The State of Pennsylvania; may she continue eminent for genius, industry and wealth.
7. General Wayne and the army.
8. All true Democrats, who wish to support, and not to confuse a government established on pure principles.
9. Doctor Priestley and those good men, who prefer leaving their property and country to living under tyranny and oppression.
10. A free navigation of the Mississippi river—3 cheers.
11. Foreign Commerce and Domestic Manufactures.
12. Agriculture and Mechanics.
13. The completion of our treaties, and possession of the western posts—3 cheers.
14. A settlement at Presqu'isle—which may vie in consequence with our eastern metropolis.
15. The Fair of America.

PHILADELPHIA, JULY 24.

A letter from Lisbon, dated May 20, to a merchant in Baltimore, says that the rout of the Spaniards and Portuguese was so great that their troops abandoned their military chest. This defeat has placed the city of Barcelona in danger—the writer of the letter adds, that Bilbao is blockaded by the Republicans. *Courier Francois.*

A letter from Brett, dated 23d May to a gentleman in Newburyport, says,

"Since I wrote you on the 27th March, I have received from the Tribune of Commerce, certifying that I shall receive a just indemnification for the loss of the *Thomas* and freight: In a few days after, news was received that the *Thomas* was in Portsmouth, (Eng.) upon which the judge of the Tribune ordered me to make out a bill of detention, which I presented at 250 pounds sterling per month's detention, likewise all damages she may have sustained, and for whatever part the British may claim for the re-capture—they however wish to avoid paying more than 3 pounds per day, the same they allow for vessels brought in here; however, I believe I

shall recover my demands, as soon as Mr. James Anderson arrives from Nantz, who is to be Consul at Brett, and will be here in a few days."

The printer of the Philadelphia gazette is requested to lay before the public the following declaration of O'Neal (Corn Planter) to a person of reputation, lately from the country:

I know, said this respectable Indian in a tone of anxiety blended with firmness, that the people of the United States make very free with my name in the newspapers, and assert things which are false, but you may inform them that I am a friend to peace, a friend to my nation, a friend to justice and equity. Buffalo Creek, 5th July inst.

The frequent publications of late respecting the disposition of the six nations, have a tendency to encrease that jealousy on their account, which perhaps already exists in too high a degree; as well as to involve the United States still more in an unhappy war.—There is reason to believe that some of our best friends among the Indians, have been weakened in their attachment to the United States, as well as suffered in their reputation, by unmerited calumnies and gross misrepresentations, which they have no opportunity to refute in a correct statement of facts.—The Corn Planter in particular, has lately been spoken of as inimical to us and his conduct stated in such a way as might incline those unacquainted with the probity of the man and too distant from him to form a right judgment of his sentiments or conduct, to suppose him insincere and unfriendly. The above declaration therefore is published, to do justice to an absent character, who has ever distinguished himself as a friend of the United States—who excited general esteem whilst amongst us, and who in the course of his negotiations, displayed the orator, the patriot, and the man of feeling.

Let the foregoing say a correspondent be contradicted with some statements recently published, which appear to be official—and the propriety of waiting, till some better organs than certain speculators, shall announce the real state of things will appear.—Time is not so rapid in his movements as avarice, but he is a much better interpreter.

By this Day's Mail.

NEW-YORK, July 23.

The paragraph which appeared in this paper of yesterday, respecting the particulars of the naval engagement in the British channel, we find, upon further enquiry, to be premature.—It was certainly reported in the Coffee-House on Monday night, and on that credit we mentioned it; but not with an intent to mislead the public, nor give offence to the public character, who it was said had received the information.

Please to insert the following, as a contradiction of the paragraph which appeared in the Daily Advertiser of this morning:

"We have authority to say, that the extraordinary paragraph in Child's Paper of this morning, concerning the battle in the Channel, is entirely without foundation! That the inserting such ridiculous fabrications, tends only to destroy the credit and usefulness of Newspapers, as well as making too free with the name of a public person to sanction such vague reports."

Diary.

A letter from Montreal, dated July 5th, to a gentleman in this city says, "For this week past they have been carting to Lacbinae", all Governor Simco's stores, the best part of which is for his new fort on the Miami. There are 4 very large field pieces, and 2000 stand of arms for it. They are recruiting here with a great deal of spirit. In two weeks they have got upwards of 60 recruits. The bounty is 15 and 20 guineas."

* The place at which all goods intended for Upper Canada are deposited.

From the Quebec Gazette.

QUEBEC, June 30.

Address to his Excellency the Right Honourable Lord Dorchester, Captain General and Governor in Chief of the Province of Lower Canada, &c. &c.

May it please your excellency, His Majesty's loyal and faithful subjects in the city and district of Quebec, earnestly wishing to unite in association for the express purpose of supporting the laws, constitution and government of the Province of Lower Canada, most