

THE GREAT UNIVERSAL PLAGUE.

The different Plagues which had visited Great Britain within the last 500 years, were summarily adverted to in the first number of the journal, particularly that in London, in the year 1655. It was there stated that one of the greatest of these pestilences occurred in the reign of Edward III.; and as this was perhaps the most dreadful and the most universal Plague which is related in modern history, it is worth while to present a more lengthened description of its character and duration. For this purpose I take the liberty of abridging an excellent account of this great Plague from a recent number of *Frazier's Magazine*.

"This dreadful pestilence, like the cholera, made its first appearance in the east. It arose in China, Tartary, India, and Egypt, about the year 1315. It is ascribed by contemporary writers to the general corruption of the atmosphere, accompanied by the appearance of millions of small serpents and other venomous insects, and in other places quantities of huge vermin, with numerous legs, and of a hideous aspect, which filled the air with putrid exhalations. Making every allowance for the ignorance and credulity of the age, it appears that some natural causes had contributed to corrupt the air, and load it with pestiferous vapours. It came into England in the year 1368; and it rained from the previous Christmas until Midsummer, almost without ceasing. Great inundations followed, and accumulations of stagnant water, by which the whole atmosphere was poisoned. It appears that in many countries there were also earthquakes and tremblings of the earth. In many of the accounts given of these convulsions of nature, we may presume there was a good deal of exaggeration. But the testimonies are too numerous and respectable to leave any doubt that, before and during the pestilence the elements were in a state of general convulsion which seems unparalleled in history.

The plague extended its ravages from India into the more western parts of Asia, into Egypt, Abyssinia, and thence into the northern parts of Africa. It proceeded over Asia Minor, Greece, and the Islands of Archipelago, almost depopulating the regions over which it stalked. It may be literally said to have decimated the world, even though we were to take this term, as implying the destruction of nine, in place of one out of ten. The Plague appears to have staid five or six months in one place and then to have gone in search of fresh victims. Its symptoms are minutely described by many writers, and appear to be the same in every country it visited. It generally appeared in the groin, or under the arm pits, where swellings were produced, which broke out in sores attended with fever, spitting, and vomiting of blood. The patient frequently died in half a day—generally within a day or two at the most. If he survived the third day, there was hope, though even then many fell into a deep sleep from which they never awoke.

From Greece the plague passed into Italy. The Venetians having lost 100,000 souls, fled from their city, and left it almost uninhabited. At Florence 60,000 persons died in one year. France next became exposed to its ravages, and the mortality was horrible. The malady proceeded northward through France till it reached Paris, where it cut off 50,000 people. About the same time it spread into Germany, where its ravages are estimated at the enormous amount of 12,000,000 souls.

As last this fearful scourge began to be felt in England.

About the beginning of August, 1348, it appeared in the seaport towns on the coast of Dorset, Devon, and Somersetshire, whence it proceeded to Bristol. The people of Gloucestershire, immediately interdicted all intercourse with Bristol, but in vain.

The disease ran or rather flew, over Gloucestershire.

—And thence it spread to Oxford, and about the first of November reached London. Finally, it spread over all England, scattering every where such destruction, that out of the whole population, hardly one in ten was left alive. Incredible as this statement may appear, it seems borne out by details of contemporary annalists.

In the church yard of Yarmouth 7052 persons who died of the plague were buried in one year. In the city of Norwich, 57,374 persons, died in six months. In the city of York the mortality was equal. In London, the dead were thrown into pits—forty, fifty, or sixty into one: and large fields were employed as burial places, the church-yards being found insufficient for the purpose. No attempt was made to perform this last office with the usual care and decency. Deep and broad ditches were made, in which the dead bodies were laid in rows, covered with earth, and surmounted with another layer of bodies, which were also covered. The mortality fell chiefly upon the lower classes of society, and among them principally upon old men, women, and children. [In these respects, this plague seems to have differed from some of the plagues in the 17th century, which fell particularly among the upper classes.] It was remarked, that "not one king or prince of any nation died of the plague, and of the English nobility and people of distinction very few were cut off. Among the higher orders of the church, the deaths were rare."—It appears that no precautions could prevent the influence of the contagion. The bonds of society were loosed; parents forsook children and children parents; some fled to the country, others locked themselves up in their houses, and many went on board vessels. But every where the fugitives were followed, for the destroying angel had a foot on the waters as well as on the land. "The pestilence spread into Wales and into Ireland." As to the Scots they are said to have brought the malady upon themselves. Taking advantage of the defenceless state of England, (or rather resolved to avenge the injuries they had suffered under the Edwards,) they made a hostile irruption with a large force into the country. But they had not proceeded far when the plague overtook them. They perished in thousands, and carried the disease with them into Scotland, where its ravages were soon as destructive as they were in England. Early in the year 1349, the plague began to abate; and by the month of August it had entirely disappeared. Its consequences, however, continued for some time to be severely felt. During the prevalence of the disease, the cattle for want of men to tend them, were allowed to wander about the fields at random, and perished in such numbers as to occasion a great scarcity. Though the fields, too, were covered with a plentiful crop of corn, much of it was lost for want of hands to reap and gather it in. The last dregs of this great plague were drained by that unfortunate race the Jews. A belief spread over several countries that they had produced the pestilence by poisoning the wells and fountains; and in many places they were massacred in thousands by the infuriated populace. In several parts of Germany where this persecution chiefly raged, the Jews were literally exterminated.—Twelve thousand of them were murdered in the single city Mentz; and multitudes of them in the extremity of their despair, shut themselves up in their houses, and consumed themselves with fire. The extent of such atrocities, in

a barbarous age, may well be imagined, when we remember the outrages which were at first produced in some parts of the continent by the cholera panic.

The following letter of Judge McLean was in answer to a democratic committee of Philadelphia, inviting him to celebrate the 4th of July with them at Fountain Green.

RICHLAND, June 29th, 1834.

Gentlemen.—I regret that my absence in the country, delayed, until yesterday, the receipt of your favor of the 20th instant, inviting me to the "Democratic Festival to be given at Fountain Green, on the 4th of July next." It would afford me high gratification to unite with my fellow-citizens of the city of Philadelphia and its vicinity, "to bring together those democrats, who have been for some time, divided in their choice of men, in union and harmony to resuscitate the doctrines of Thomas Jefferson, to proclaim an aversion to man-worship, and to establish principles as the only safe standard, &c. Our own reflections and the examples of history should convince us, that no free government can long be sustained, where men are substituted for principles. If we are not incapable of receiving instructions from example, we must profit by the republics of past ages, which have been overthrown by an abandonment of principle and a blind adherence to men. We are all such selfish beings, and either through infirmity or depravity are always liable to err. A principle which may be denounced to day may shortly be the test of political orthodoxy, and thus all the great movements of the government may depend upon the whim or caprice of an individual, who himself may be the miserable instrument of political jugglers. This is a government of an absolute monarchy, by whatever name it may be called.

It is a just and profound observation of Machiavelli, "that the real powers of government are sometimes contracted to a narrower point in republics than in monarchies." He who has not seen this tendency in republican governments has profited little by the lights of history or experience.

In the days of Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe, who ever heard of Jefferson men, Madison men, or Monroe men! Parties were then known by the principles which they advocated, and they formed the rule by which men were judged. And if we wish to preserve our government, we must get back again to the standard of principles which were then professed and entertained.

Let a party be organized with an exclusive reference to any individual, and let that individual be placed at the head of the government, he must of necessity be supported in all his measures. If he is right, the party must soon be broken in pieces; for his name being the only rallying point, whenever the party shall fail to justify and sustain all his acts, it loses its appropriate designation and must dissolve. It is therefore as necessary to support the chief of a party, thus organized, when he is wrong as when he is right.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN MCLEAN.

Cutting timber. In reply to the inquiry made by D. R. respecting the proper season for cutting timber, we say, that where durability is the object, timber should be cut at that season, when there is the least sap in it, say in February, but where it is for the purpose of clearing land and the timber to be cut is of a kind that is likely to sprout, than it is desirable to have it cut when there is most sap in it, as that not only prevents the stumps from sprouting but they rot much sooner than when cut in February.

Genesee Farmer.

Gold Coin. Mr. T. M. Moore of this city, has just completed a very admirable contrivance for the detection of counterfeit gold coin of the new emission. It is neat and durable, and by it a piece of false coin can be easily detected. The balance is an unfaulking one, and those who possess themselves of one of these articles may feel perfectly safe when taking the half and quarter eagles. The article is sold at a very reasonable rate, and is almost indispensable for Banking institutions, store keepers and others. We have a few of these balances for sale at this office, price \$1 50 each.

Bicknell's C. D.

Passing Counterfeit Money. We learn that at the late term of the Court of Common Pleas, in Worcester, Mass. a person by the name of Azariah Walker, was found guilty of passing counterfeit money, and sentenced to two years imprisonment in the state prison. It was proved, on the trial, that he had offered a two dollar bill, of the Franklin Bank, Chepachet, R. I. to a tavern keeper, who pronounced it counterfeit. Afterwards he passed the same bill to another person, saying that he had shown it at a Bank, where it was considered good, (the bill being suspected by the person to whom it was passed,) and by that means getting rid of it. There was evidence that Walker came honestly by the bill, and that his character was good. Two years imprisonment is the shortest term authorized by the statute against this offence. It is probable that the number of offenders of the state prison would be greatly increased, were all sent there who have been guilty of the same offence that Walker is. It was only (as described by a witness,) "tucking off a bad bill that somebody had tucked on him." *It.*

Walking under water.—The apparatus by means of which a gentleman of Boston amused the people of that city, by a walk under water, is thus described:

A large cap made of lead, with a circular glass in front, and weighing about 75 lbs. envelopes the head and rests upon the shoulders, to this the water tight India Rubber dress is attached. The air is conveyed into the cap by means of tubes made of India Rubber cloth, through which it is propelled by a forcing pump kept in the boat or vessel as the case may be. Shoes made of lead weighing several pounds each, are also worn. At the depth of twenty four feet no inconvenience is experienced from supporting this weight, which should be graduated according to the depth of the water.

Between two and three hundred young men, headed by the Captain of the Watch, made an attack upon ten gaming houses in Richmond, Va., on the 15th inst., and destroyed all the gaming implements found in the different apartments, without disturbing, or in any way injuring any other kind of property. Among other things, five or six hundred packs of cards were thrown into the streets. The fragments of the articles were burnt, by order of the Mayor, on the succeeding morning.

Boston Statesman.

The Portsmouth (Ohio) Courier, states that a young man came to that town and gave a water-melon to a servant girl living in a family by the name of Woods.—It was kept for four days, when it was eaten by the whole family, consisting with the servant, of four persons, together with three little girls on a visit. All were immediately taken sick, with every evidence of being poisoned. By prompt medical aid they were recovered, but the cause of their sickness was not discovered. The young man was arrested but discharged, nothing to warrant the suspicions against him being brought forth.

Bost. Statesman.

New ORLEANS, September 2, 1834.

A destructive fire occurred this morning about one o'clock, in Delor street, between Magazine and Camp streets. It originated either in Mr. Laferrière's bakery, or in Mr. S. Thompson's warehouse, which together with four or five adjacent houses and frame buildings were destroyed. Such was the rapidity of the flames, that the tenants of the houses burned, had, we understand, only time to save themselves. The amount of property destroyed is estimated at about 100,000 dollars. Mr. S. Thompson is the principal sufferer; his warehouse was filled with spirituous liquors, sugar and other property, to a very large amount. The loss of Mr. Laferrière is also considerable, as he had a large supply of flour in store.

The list of persons indicted by the Grand Jury for participating in the destruction of the Convent, published yesterday, on authority of the Bunker Hill Aurora, we have since been informed was erroneous. The following is a correct list:

On the general indictment: John Buzelle alias John R. Buzelle, Prescott P. Pond, Wm. Mason, Nathaniel Budd alias Nathan Budd, Jr., Marvin Marcy, Sargent Blaisdell, Aaron Hadley, Jr., Benj. Wilbur, Isaac Parker, Alvah Kelley, Thomas Dil-

On separate indictments: Wilder S. Thurston, John R. Buzzell, Henry Buck, Thomas Maher.

No indictment was found against Wm. Lewis or J. H. Conant, as stated in the Aurora. *Trans.*

Savannah, Sept. 12. There have been four deaths since our last report on Major Whitman's plantation, but no new cases for 3 days past. The disease however, is spreading in an alarming manner, throughout all the plantations on the Savannah river, and some cases in this city. It is on the Carolina side—on our Sea Islands, and in Bryan County.

The Mobile Register, of the 8th Sept. states that the health of the city continues good. There has not been less sickness at any period during the two past years.—We have no epidemic whatever; and, at this moment, we think the weather highly favorable to health.

A cruel and deliberate murder, without provocation, was committed at Tuscarora, (Ala.) by a man named Flake a well digger, 22 years of age, on the person of a man named Pool, aged 45, who was intoxicated at the time. Passing the cabin of Flake, the latter called him and said he had some information to impart. Pool went towards him, when Flake began striking him with a stick, apparently in fun; he then kicked him severely. Several persons then requested him to desist. Pool not making the least resistance. He still followed Pool, and picking up a stone weighing two or three pounds, he struck him so severely on the back of the head with it, as to fracture his skull, rendering him insensible, and causing his death next morning. Flake was committed to prison, after examination to await his trial.

From the Vandalia Whig.

ILLINOIS. We are enabled this week to give complete returns of the votes for Governor and Lieutenant Governor. The result stands thus:

For Duncan	17440
For Kinney	10824
For McLaughlin	4101
For Adams	874
For Vandalia	7148
" Alton	7511
" Springfield	7044
" Jacksonville	272
" Peoria	486
" Geographical centre	774

Seat of Government Returns have been received from all the counties but three, in which any vote was taken on the Seat of Government question. The result stands thus:

For Vandalia	7148
" Alton	7511
" Springfield	7044
" Jacksonville	272
" Peoria	486
" Geographical centre	774

Fulton, La Salle and Putnam, gave no vote; no returns have been received from Crawford, Macoupin, or Effingham. The votes in Macoupin were probably given to Alton and the other two counties, to this place.

Senate of the United States. The constitutional terms of service of the following Senators expire on the 4th of March next, viz:

Mr. Sprague	of Maine.
Mr. Bell	New Hampshire.
Mr. Silsbee	Massachusetts.
Mr. Knight	Rhode Island.
Mr. Frelinghuysen	New Jersey.
Mr. Clayton	Delaware.
Mr. Leigh	Virginia.
Mr. Brown	North Carolina.
Mr. Calhoun	South Carolina.
Mr. King	Georgia.
Mr. Bibb	Kentucky.
Mr. White	Tennessee.
Mr. Wagaman	Louisiana.
Mr. Poincexter	Mississippi.
Mr. King	Alabama.
Mr. Robinson	Illinois.

Besides the above there are three vacancies by resignations to be filled, viz: from Pennsylvania, in place of Mr. Wilkins; from Georgia, in place of Mr. Forsyth; and from Maryland, in the place of Mr. Chambers. The elections now in progress, therefore are more interesting, for they are to decide the complexion of the next Senate.

It will be recollectcd by our readers that in April last we published an account of the death of Josiah Buckland, of Springfield, aged 13 years, from the effects of a blow on the head. The latter was given by a pistol shot fired by his playmate Moses Ellett, aged 12 years.—The latter was recently tried at Springfield before the Supreme Court. He was taken violently with the bilious cholic, and died the day after he was attacked. Georgia has lost her distinguished son, and our country one of its most prominent citizens. His loss will be deeply felt, and his death profoundly regretted.

Fat Sheep in Summer. A writer in the Farmer's Journal, after stating that he applies tar to the roots of the horns of sheep, and puts a little in their noses and mouths, "as affording the best security against the maggot in the head," gives the following remarks on the management of sheep in the summer:

"I am careful to have none of my sheep, except those I intend for market, get very fat during the summer. I have heard it remarked, and I believe it, that after once very fat, a sheep will never arrive at the same point again. Sheep that get very fat during the summer, certainly do not do as well in the fall and winter. About the middle of September I give my sheep the best feed I can, and the middle of October begin to feed sparingly with turnips, potatoes, or some kind of grain. When the time arrives for yarding, which I do rather late, I separate my flock in the following manner: in one yard I put my rams and wethers, except such of the former as have become very poor during the time of running with the ewes. In the second I put my last spring lambs; in the third all my healthy ewes, and in the fourth all my old and weak, (but no diseased,) ewes. A sixth department is a kind of hospital, into which every sheep is removed as soon as discovered to be affected with disease. This arrangement I consider very important, as it affords an opportunity for treating every class of sheep in the manner judged most proper for their circumstances. I have known instances in which the lot of old and feeble ewes have come out much improved in the spring, and have produced a good fleece, and raised fine likely lambs. I always intend, however, to turn off my sheep before they get so old as to become emaciated; as they are more likely to acquire those diseases which spread through the flock.

Bost. Statesman.

Late Foreign News.

Last from Europe. By the ship Poland, from Havre, Aug. 16, we are in possession of our regular files to the day of her sailing, inclusive. They contain nothing of very particular interest.

N. Y. Times.

In Spain, the Queen's army was pushing all the insurgents to the French frontiers, and the emigration to France, it was supposed, would be very considerable.

All the Carlist army was vacating Navarre, but a small column. The object was to protect some ammunition which was landing, and of which they were much in want. The *Quotidienne* says that Don Carlos' army was to sustain itself at a small post until the resources which he expected were realized.

General Mina had arrived at Bordeaux, where he was well received. A public dinner was tendered to him by his political friends, which he declined in consequence of his desire to proceed immediately to Spain. He left Bordeaux for his native land August 12.

The French government intend retaining possession of Algiers. The last *Moniteur* contains a royal ordinance for its regulation.

Louis Philippe was about visiting Bordeaux and other places in France.

Intelligence from Madrid to the 7th has been received by express. It brings the financial scheme of M. de Toreno. It is stated that the Minister, to save his own responsibility, has proposed the reduction of the debt only to one half; but the general opinion is, that the Procuradores will only recognize two thirds of the active debt. In the sitting of the 4th, the draught of the Address of the Committee passed by a majority of 14; but on the 5th Ministers carried, by a majority of five, that the paragraph relating to the liberty of the press should be sent back to the Committee for the purpose of modifying the expressions. In the sitting of the 6th the Ministry obtained some new modifications, and on the 7th the amended Address was voted.

Poland.—Condemnation of the Patriots.—After the lapse of more than twelve months, the Extraordinary Tribunal at Warsaw, instituted for the purpose of trying the principal actors in the Polish Revolution, has at length come to a final judgment. The members of the government of the Five are all condemned to death, without excepting even the Generalissimo Skrzyniecki, who only formed part of the Councils on extraordinary occasions. The second Generalissimo, Prince Michael Radziwill, is not included. This indulgence is attributed to the intercession of the Court of Prussia, to which the family of the Prince is allied. Of all the members of the Government affected by this judgment, the venerable Vincent Nominowski is the only one remaining in Poland, the others have taken refuge in foreign countries. After the publication