

freely administered, with the effect of somewhat raising the sinking pulse, but the improvement was slight and transitory, and between 9 and 10 p.m. the patient died.

During the last hours of the illness some facts came out that had previously been kept secret. After landing from his seventeen months' voyage, and being paid off at Queenstown, he had come out to Portland in the Allan steamship "Moravian," arriving on the 2d December. Four or five days previous to her arrival small-pox had broken out among the passengers, and the vessel had, in consequence, been quarantined and fumigated after the sick had been removed from her. One important part of the fumigation had been omitted, as I shall soon show, but this last fact was not known then. In the meantime there was nothing to attract much attention to the account or to lead the gentlemen concerned to suspect, for one moment, the nature of the horrible case they had just witnessed. The story did not appear to throw much light upon it. The vessel had been duly quarantined and fumigated, and the man had been more than *three weeks* away from her, leading all the while an active and vigorous life in the open air. Neither the symptoms of the illness nor the antecedent history favored the diagnosis of small-pox; but, taken together they appeared to preclude it. Small pox, without eruption, can be demonstrated only by tracing it to the infection of small-pox, or by tracing the infection of small-pox to it, and in this case the antecedent proof seemed to fail.

From the 23d December, the day on which W—— left the "Moravian," to the 14th January, when he fell sick, twenty-three full days had elapsed, or more than three weeks. Now, of all zymotic diseases, small-pox is that which is most regular in the length of its period of incubation, which is never many hours less or more than thirteen days.* In W——'s case we must suppose either that we have the incubation lengthened by fully nine or ten days—an observation such as has never previously been recorded—or that he contracted the infection from his own clothes. We must inevitably come to the latter conclusion, for it is quite evident that the clothes of the "Moravian's" passengers were not thoroughly disinfected. Those which W—— brought with him from the steamer retained the creases and the peculiar sea-smell in which they had been packed. The invariable period of incubation just mentioned will lead us to the day of his landing in St. John, as that upon which he received the infection. On that

* Marson in "Reynold's System of Medicine," i, p. 434-5. Barendsprung in "Amalen des Charite Kranken," xix, p. 103. The eleven cases infected by W—— followed this rule exactly.