

and autumn. In many instances a whole day was taken to land the passengers from one ship, and numbers were so weak that they would sit down utterly helpless on the high ground just above the landing place, to lie there for the night amid their scanty personal effects. Many of those who were not sick camped out in various places over the Island, making such shelter as they could. A supply of tents was sent down from the city, and partially served the purpose, but the poor people had to pitch these tents for themselves, and made such rude work of it that when a storm came and the shelter was most needed their tent pins would be pulled out and their houses literally overturned. Others took the rough boards which had been sent down to make coffins, and built rude camps. At the outset, an attempt had been made to make coffins for all who died, and James Portmore, the carpenter who was building the pest house, was kept hard at work with his double duties. As the pestilence increased even this rude undertaking work was found to be out of the question. The sick died faster than the coffins could be made, and they were buried in their ordinary clothing. The soil of the burial ground was so thin in many places that the bodies were little more than covered with earth, and after a heavy rain portions of the clothing could be seen protruding. As a result the odor was carried on the southerly winds to the city. Then quicklime was sent to the Island and scattered over the graves, and more earth was piled upon the shallow places. In many instances, where the deaths were in rapid succession, trenches were dug and a number of bodies buried together. On one occasion, when the doctors and assistants were all prostrated, 45 bodies accumulated in the dead house. A huge pit was dug close by the building and all the dead were placed in it. The spot is clearly to be distinguished at