The Plague.

This terrible disease is said to be threatening the confines of Europe and is now advancing in that direction from the banks of the Tigris and Euphrates Little fear is entertained that it will reach Western Europe, because, on account of supposed sanitary improve-ments, the conditions in which the plague breeds and spreads are imagined not to exist there. Indeed so much confidence is expressed on the subject that it is stated there is no more chance of an invasion of England by the plague than there is of the destruction of London by an earthquake similar to that which destroyed Lisbon. But there is such a thing as being over-confident; and whatever sanitary improvements may have taken place in England, we know some cities in Canada which would furnish very fine hot-beds for any epidemic that might happen to move in this direction. The laws which govern the move-ments of epidemics are very little known: there is an extraordinary amount of mystery about some of them, which cross continents and oceans with a virulence which nothing human can restrain. The plague is a malignant fever, and is supposed to have some analogy to typhus, exercising a peculiar influence upon the lymphatic system. Damp and dirt, feeble constitutions, and gross habits of living are understood to favor the propagation of the disease. These conditions may be far less unsatisfactory in Western Europe and America than in Asia and the Eastern part of Europe, where the Mohammedan faith spreads its withering creed of fatality; but there are scores of cities in America, and in Western Europe too, remarkably favorable for the propagation of other epidemics, not excluding cholera; and why should not the plague find a suitable field for its ravages in the same localities, if once it were to concentrate its virulence and gather up its forces for a march westward? No calamity that has afflicted the human race since the Black Death appeared in England, has had so crushing an effect on the imagination as the more extensive visitations of the plague. In one year, 1665, in London, out of a population of half a million, the deaths amounted to 68,000. It has attacked different parts of Europe since. In 1720, it slew half the population of Marseilles. In 1816, it appeared in Calabria; in 1818, in Corfu; and in 1819, in Silesia. We must not suppose that because it has not of late spread so extensively, therefore its power "over the human organization has been stead-ily lessened." It may only require a ily lessened." It may only require a very slight modification of its character and virulence in order to spread its desolations over Europe and America, with pretty nearly as much fury as in its ancient source and seminary." When the cholora appeared it was just as bad in England as in Persia or in India; and why it should not be the same with the plague has not yet been shown, unless it be that the element of overcrowding may be lacking. The boasted sani-tary improvements of most of our towns and villages merely consist in collecting all the poisonous miasmata that the locality can engender, and carefully distributing it, by means of air tight tubes, into the dwellings of the inhabitants. The illness of the Prince of Walescaused the attention of practical scientific men to be directed to the subject; but it appears as though it would almost require a second visitation of the plague to inculcate again, with practical effect, all the lessons that might have been learned from the warning then given .- 1'o-

THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

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Transation Mars to 1970 There is no change in Liverpool or New York Quotations for breadstulls. In Chicago wheat is Ic. and in Milwauk se 2c. higher TORONTO.

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Otticial Announcements.

MEETINGS OF PRESBYTERIES.

('HATHAN -- In the Lecture Room of Known hurch, Toronto, on Saturday, 10th June, at 11 a.m. Church, Actione, on Saturday, 19th June, at 11 a. In.
Linday — At Woodyille, on the last Tuesday of
May, at 11 a in
BRUCF.—At Port Bigin, on the 2nd Tuesday of
July, at 40 clock p.m.
King-ton—At Kingston, in Brock St. Cherch,
on the 2nd Tuesday of July, at 3 p.m.

Huron -At Seasorth, on the 2nd Tuesday of July, at 11 a.m.

Pants — Presbytery meets in Zion Church, Brantford, on first Tuesday of July, at 2 p.m. HAMLTON —A special meeting for the induction of Mr. Campbell will be held at Kirkwall, Township of Beveriv, on Tuesday, May loth, at 1 o'clock pm. The next ordinary meeting is appointed for the second Tuesday of July next.

Toronto.—Next meeting of Presbytory of To-ronto in the lecture room of Knox Church, Toronto, on the last Tuesday of May, at 11 a.m.

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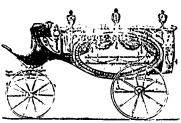
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