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VOL. 13.--NO. 17. SACKVILLE, N. B., THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 1882. WHOLE NO. 640.

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CHIGNECTO POST AND BORDERER.

SACKVILLE, N. B., AUG. 31, 1882.

The Lepers of Tracadie.

How the Disease Originated.—Its Symptoms and Its Victims.—Their Treatment and Their Daily Life, and Awaiting Death.—Peter Noel's Fate. "God Help Me Why Can't I Get Well?"

From the N. Y. Sun.

Miramichi is a little town in northwestern New Brunswick, about half way between New York and Greenland. One half a century ago one Gardner, a Scotchman, and a resident of the town, saw a fawn-colored spot on his wife's forehead. Anon there were ominous swellings at the corners of her eyes. Then the tendons of her fingers began to stiffen and contract until her hands resembled birds' claws. The fawn-colored spots were doubled and quadrupled. The husband sought the advice of Dr. Mackey, a young medical graduate. This physician made a careful study of the disease. It baffled his skill. He could give it no name. He found nothing like it on the medical calendar. So engrossed was he in its study that he grew thin and pale. Sleepless nights were passed. To add to his distraction, his attention was directed to a second case. The victim was a Mrs. Landry, living seventy-five miles from Miramichi. Of French extraction, she was in no way related to Mrs. Gardner. Fawn-colored spots appeared upon her body. Her skin became as transparent and as scaly as isinglass. The contraction of the fingers and the ominous swelling of the eyes were there. There were the same aches and pains as in the case of Mrs. Gardner. The physician was nonplussed. At the end of his medical rope, determined to ascertain the true character of the disease, he sold his little property and went to Europe. He travelled through England, France, and Germany, and gleaned no information. Acting upon a hint he received in Paris, he passed through Denmark into Norway. Near the coast, where the main staple of food was dried fish and salt meats, he visited a lazaretto. Its inmates were immured for life. There was no mistaking the symptoms. They were suffering from same disease as Mrs. Gardner and Mrs. Landry. It was leprosy, and incurable.

On his return to Miramichi Dr. Mackey found the scourge eating into the little community like a cancer. Prompt action was necessary. Mrs. Gardner's fingers dropped off at the points, and her skin was dry and flaky. Mrs. Landry was in a worse condition. Her eyesight was gone, and she exhibited unmistakable symptoms of elephantiasis. The young physician sounded the alarm. The interest of the oldest practitioners was aroused. One or two scoffed at the idea of leprosy, and asserted that the disease would yield to remedies employed in scrofulous and similiar complaints. Their experiments, however, verified the young doctor's discovery, and the community was thoroughly startled. It was composed mainly of descendants of old French settlers. The English language was not much spoken. Families had intermarried for nearly two centuries, until whole parishes were dove-tailed. The result was similar to that attending the overbreeding of animals. The blood became overheated and impure. Its impurities were quickened by a diet of salt meats and dried fish, and a genuine leprosy cropped to the surface. There were 78 cases in one section within twelve months.

The Provincial Parliament was spurred to action under the personal appeals of the members from Miramichi. A bill establishing the lazaretto was passed Sheldrake Island, dotting a bay on the northeast coast of the province, was the spot selected. It was an isolated island, off all lines of travel. Here buildings were erected, with barred windows. A strict search for all tainted with leprosy was made, and they were confined on this island. Scores of the unfortunate wretches were captured. The lazaretto was under the charge of two men, who seemed to be destitute of all feeling. No care was given to the lepers. The were mostly ignorant French Canadians, who had eked out a living by cultivating the thin soil and by fishing. Cleanliness was not a virtue. They were neither bathed or dieted. Clean clothing was distributed thrice a year. The most abject and squalid never removed their clothing, but drew their clean shirts over their old ones at each distribution. The sexes were not separated. The lazaretto was a virtual prison for life. Its inmates rotted like murrained sheep. It was the horror of adjacent parishes. Occasionally a poor wretch escaped, and appealed to those outside for protection. Every face was turned from him. He desecrated everything that he touched. Even the fence that the leaned against while telling his pitiful story was contaminated. If he drank from a spring the spring was poisoned. If a cup of milk was given him the cup was broken as soon as drained. A walking upas tree, freighting the air with poison would not have been regarded with more horror. He was either recaptured or driven back to the lazaretto by hunger. Worse than all this, lepers, in whom the seeds of the disease were fructifying, were concealed by friends and relatives. The lazaretto was regarded as more of a prison than an hospital. A mere commitment disgraced a family far more than a commitment to the penitentiary. Fathers and mothers endangered themselves and their families in the effort to shield a favorite son or daughter. It was a disgrace to be hidden, and not made public. A discovery of leprosy tainted every relative. The children could not make eligible marriages, and the family were shunned.

The lazaretto was removed to Tracadie, on the bay of that name, about 1849. Here the treatment of the unfortunates was a little better, but there was an utter lack of cleanness until fourteen years ago, when the Sisters of Mercy took sole charge. They found the inmates dying in filth and misery. They inaugurated new treatment. They tore out the iron bars from the windows. The lepers were bathed each day, and their ulcers were carefully dressed. The bandages were washed, and the clothes of the unfortunates were kept scrupulously neat and clean. They were allowed the freedom of the grounds. The sexes were seperated. Rations of tobacco were given to the men. A sailboat was bought, and parties of the lepers were allowed to go sailing and fishing. Nor was the body alone entertained. The Sisters administered to the mind. The lepers no longer brooded day and night over their unfortunate condition. Some of their number played the violin, and they danced to its music. A sure death was thus robbed of some of its terrors. When the provinces were contederated in the Dominion of Canada, the lazaretto passed under the control of the Federal Government. The Sisters, however remained in charge, receiving a miserable pittance from the Government for their labors. The rigor of the law was softened by Father Joseph A. Babineau, pastor of the little Catholic church at Tracadie. When cases of leprosy were reported he visited the afflicted and prepared their minds for the inevitable. They usually entered the lazaretto with resignation, and submitted to their fate without a murmur. Where the good Father's efforts failed, the strong arm of the law was invoked, and they were seized like criminals and imprisoned for life. Their discontent was softened by the kindness of the Sisters, and they dropped into the grave hopeful of a better fate in the world to come.

I visited Tracadie on Sunday, July 16. The Hon. Arthur D. Williams of New York accompanied me. The visit required a fifty-five mile drive from Newcastle, a thriving village on the curved railroad from Halifax to Quebec. The road was a bee line and as level as a prairie. It was shaded by stunted spruce trees. We passed straggling settlements of French Canadians and Indians. At times the atmosphere was laden with a putrid odor, which came from the refuse of the lobster canneries on the beach. This is used as a compost, for the soil is thin and poor. Where the spruces were cut away there were magnificent views of the ocean and of bays leading to prolific salmon and trout streams. It was midnight before we reached Tracadie. On the way our driver repeatedly awoke residents on the route, and asked for a pail to water his horses. It was always given with the greatest pleasure. The conversation was in French. There is no hotel at Tracadie. Through the kindness of Mr. John Young, its richest inhabitant, we were given a lunch and lodgings. At sunrise next morning the little bell in the belfry of the primitive Roman Catholic chapel fronting the broad blue bay announced early mass. High mass was celebrated at 10½. By 10 o'clock the dusty roads were filled with French Canadians on their way to church. A few came in rickety wagons, but the most of them were on foot. They swept by in squads, old and young, clad in quaint costumes. Some had arisen with the dawn, and walked ten and twelve miles. One man on crutches lived seven miles away. It was a hot day, and the air was filled with mosquitoes and sand flies. The devotees seated themselves on a long broken pile of cord wood near the house of the priest, and awaited the tap of the bell. The little cemetery allotted to the lepers lies in the shade of the unpainted church. It is overgrown with shrubbery and brambles. A large, weather-beaten cross stands in the centre, stretching its arms over the unmarked graves of the unfortunates. A wharf and a fish house stand 200 yards to the north, and beyond them the squatty buildings and dormer windows of the lazaretto are seen. We knocked at the door of the parsonage. The rustics gazed at us inquiringly. Father Babineau was in the vestry dressing for mass. He was summoned by an attendant, and gave us a gracious reception. His glittering black eyes and pale, intellectual face recalled the features of Judge Cardozo. With extreme courtesy, he accompanied us to the lazaretto, leaving his assistant, Father Nugent, a jolly-faced Irishman, to chant mass. As we crossed a rustic foot bridge near the lazaretto we heard the plaintive notes of a violin. The melody was sad and sweet, a blending of the "Canadian Boat Song" and "Annie Laurie." The musician was a leper, whiling away the weary hours.

We ascended the porch. Passing into the entry we stood before a door with a wicket. The words,

TOUT PASSE!

were above the door. Father Babineau rang the bell. A second afterward the white face of a Sister of Mercy appeared at the open wicket. The Father spoke to her in French and she opened the door. We were ushered into a reception room under the motto,

PERSONNE N'ENTRE ICI S'IL NE VIENT AIMER JESUS CHRIST.

Sister St. John, matron of the lazaretto. is a pleasant-faced woman, about 36 years old. She came from the Hotel Dieu, in Montreal. Fourteen years among the lepers have familiarized her with their manners, customs, and feelings. She has been the recipient of many a sad story. She knows the families of all the inmates, and probably has a more thorough knowledge of the nature and character of the disease than the physician who receives $300 a year from the Government for an annual visit. She has charge of the cabinet of drugs, and has a fair knowledge of medical jurisprudence. As there is no doctor within fifty miles of the institution, the Tracadiens and the inhabitants of outlying settlements come to her for medical advice. Prescriptions for the poor are filled without charge. She knows the families tainted with the disease, and traces accurately the relation ship between the afflicted. The same strain of blood appears to flow in the veins of all. A majority of the lepers were born in Tracadie. They all come from within a circle of seventy miles. Under Sister St. John's supervision an accurate record of the inmates has been kept. There is no prior record on file. Since 1868 the Sister's record shows that fifty-eight out of ninety have died. There are now twenty six in in the institution. This number is larger than at any time within fourteen years. The average of life, after the appearance of the disease, is from ten to fifteen years. Some die within three or four ysars, and there is now a woman in the institution who has been suffering over fifty years. She was an inmate of the lazaretto on Shelldrake Island forty years ago. While there the disease disappeared and it was supposed that she had been cured. She returned to her home in Tracadie, married, and had children. Twenty years afterwards the tell tale spots again appeared, and she was remanded to the lazaretto. She is still living, handless and almost sightless. A daughter twenty-four years old, whose fingers are drawn up like the claws of a dead bird, has inherited the scourge from the mother, and is now in the institution.

Singular as it may seem, the lepers are subject to attacks from ordinary diseases. There have been deaths from jaundice and typhus fever. In some cases the skin is dry and clean, and in others it is covered with ulcers. Those afflicted with ulcers live the longest. Damp weather has a damaging effect. The patients are feverish, and complain of rheumatic pains. They have fits of drowsiness, and sleep for hours daily. In winter and summer they invariably improve. None have died within fourteen months.

They are particularly sensitive. We were warned against using the word leprosy within their hearing. They speak of it as the "disease." Each patient apparently has an impression that there may be some mistake in his case, and that he is suffering from some other complaint. At times medicine is given to relieve them from pain. Any unusual decoction seems to effect them. Strong tea has removed the fawn-colored spots, but as soon as the system becomes accustomed to the tea, the spots return. Three years ago the hearts of all the lepers throbbed with joy. A nostrum, called Fowle's Humor Cure, was administered, and the disease entirely disappeared. Fowle was in ecstasies. He forwarded box after box of his mixture, and it was used freely. Within six months, however, the scourge reappeared with more violence than ever.

Cases have occurred where those afflicted with leprosy left the country before they were sent to the asylum.

Two or three years ago the spots appeared upon two girls belonging to well known families. Determined to avoid the lazaretto, the girls went to Shediac and were employed as household servants. Hearing of their flight, Father Babineau wrote to Shediac. He had observed indications of leprosy on them before their disappearance. The girls were alarmed, and fled to Providence, R. I. One died in that city in a private family, where she had been engaged as a chambermaid. Father Babineau learned the whereabouts of the survivor, and went to Providence. After a long talk he convinced her that it was her duty to return to Tracadie and enter the lazaretto. She did so and died within a year.

TO BE CONTINUED.

Mr. Parpetus Boileau, Ottawa, says: "I was radically cured of piles, from which I had been suffering for over two months, by the use of Thomas' Eclectric Oil. I used it both internally and externally, taking it in small doses before meals and on retiring to bed. In one week I was cured and have had no trouble since. I believe it saved my life."

Cereals and Flesh Foods.

(From American Agriculturist.)

The letter of "Reader" which we print in another column is suggestive, and useful, at a time like the present. We recall a favorite text from Count Rumford, and reiterate that "the number of people which may be supported in any country depends as much upon the art of cookery as upon that of agriculture." There is much in the view of our correspondent, that "grains and fruits may be made to yield both cheaper and more nourishing, and healthier food for human beings than any kind of flesh, or animal food whatever." The fact is, a many people know this is true, but do not practice it because they do not feel like giving up part of the pleasure derived from the consumption of flesh and its products. Wheat, oatmeal, corn and buckwheat, properly cooked, form delicious, as well as nutriticus food; when served with milk, or fruit, still more delicious. Beans and peas of the green garden variety may be regarded as standing highest in flesh-forming farinaces. For sixteen or seventeen cents one can make a pound of human muscle from beans and peas, while beef at present rates would make the cost of muscle from fifty to fifty-five cents.

In dealing with flesh as food, we started by saying that it was not necessary; and it only remains to cook to provide suitable substitutes for beef, mutton, veal, &c., &c. While, however, we take this ground, it must be remembered that as long as we breed cattle for milk, butter and cheese, there will always be a large by-product in the shape of calves, and bullocks.

We would not insist upon the disuse of beef, or rather flesh foods, if properly prepared and eaten, as suggested in previous articles. They add variety to one's diet, and give a great deal of pleasure too. Those who have had a wide experience of both kinds of food would certainly not give up flesh food entirely, at least that is the deliberate judgment of the most intelligent men who have made experiments for themselves, extending over months and years.

To commence with wheat: We do not unqualifiedly recommend the use of the whole or unbolted wheat-meal as a bread. The bran or outer husk of the grain is decidedly indigestible, and some persons find that it causes much irritation to the coats of the stomach when used in whole meal bread. In these days of roller flour-milling the most nutritious article which comes to us for bread-making is strong baker's flour. When public taste has been sufficiently educated to accept a loaf of a darker color, and closer and firmer texture, we may get bread in cities as good as that served at the farm. There is another, and very useful mode of preparing wheat, and that is to steam it in a double pan for several hours, either in the whole or cracked condition. For this purpose the white wheats are the best, more particularly those grown in western Ontario and Michigan. The outer membrane of the grain is thin and tender, and under the action of continued steaming the indigestible portion does no harm to the stomach. The same grain ground into meal by the roller process makes a rich, firm gelatinous pudding.

Oatmeal in all its various forms is good, and should be used, at least once a day by every one in winter, either in the form of porridge or pudding. Oatmeal being about three times as rich in oil as wheat, is a splendid heat-giver in cold weather, and when properly cooked is very digestible, and enjoyable. In the form of cakes, we should not recommend it as a regular article of diet.

Corn is so well known, both in the solid and ground conditions that one need scarcely particularize the different kinds. However, it is so important an article, that few can afford to despise anything which may be said about its preparation. In the form of meal most of us are familiar with it as the base of our corn bread and johnny cakes. We also know it as a spoon dish, both as porridge and pudding, in both forms presenting an enjoyable repast. The same treatment as wheat, for mush, or porridge, holds equally good of oatmeal and ground corn. It should always be cooked in a double sauce-pan to avoid burning and waste.

With buckwheat we are all acquainted, *i. e.* in the form of cakes and loaves, but so few of us treat the article fairly, that we do not get the best results. Pancakes are very appetizing, and make a nourishing meal if enough can be eaten, but we don't recommend any one of these grains to be eaten alone. Wheats abound in gluten or albuminoids, while corn contains starchy matter, and three or four times more oil than wheat. A good meal of grain products should be made up of wheaten bread, oatmeal or cornmeal porridge, milk and fruit. If it is desired to eat wheaton mush or porridge, then pancakes from buckwheat or johnny cake is a good combination when served according to taste. Buttered beans, cooked as suggested in earlier issues, with johnny cake, make a good lunch or supper. Peas of sweet rich flavor are capital eating, and would command as high prices here as in Europe if the public were once allowed the treat of a meal from them in winter.

How these cereals should be combined with meats, and egg and cheese foods, is a matter for the cookery book. For the encouragement of those who wish to experiment on a vegetarian diet we would not advise abstention from milk, butter, cheese, or eggs for the first three months, because it narrows the choice too much. It will be essential to have home-made bread of good, strong flour, and to eat freely of beans and oatmeal porridge. Many mistakes have been made by supposing vegetarian diet to consist mainly of the green kitchen vegetables such as roots, cabbages, &c.

Salisbury Items.

Aug. 23.—There was quite a heavy frost Sunday night last, ice being formed in some places near by.

—Mr. Cushing has imported a fine fancy driving horse from P. E. Island this season.

—Mr. A. E. Trites has built a fine large barn, about 80 feet long and 20 feet post, on his farm just outside the village.

—The haymakers are getting pretty well through with their haying, though the weather has been damp a good deal of the time. Harvest is rapidly coming on.

—The Scott Act has not yet been enforced in our little hamlet. Three bar-rooms are run openly, the proprietors setting defiance to law, and none daring to make them afraid.

—During Rev. Mr. Moore's vacation trip to St. Martins the Baptist pulpit was supplied by a Mr. White, student of Acadia. Mr. Moore is also, we understand, about to tender his resignation to the Baptist people of this place over whom he has had the spiritual oversight for the past year or more.

—The Corner was somewhat enlivened last Saturday afternoon by a sort of *melee* in which there were several prominent citizens. One of the gentle(?) sex would have damaged the crown of a fallen enemy with a heavy cane had she not been prevented. No serious damage was done, yet we might say "if ye bite and devour one another take heed that ye be not consumed one of another."

—Rev. Mr. Barnes, F. C. Baptist minister of this place, has resigned his charge here and is soon to assume the ministerial oversight of an island congregation near Grand Manan. Mr. Barnes has won many friends during his sojourn in Salisbury and has justly gained the representation of being an energetic earnest minister of the Gospel. He will be followed by the kindest wishes of the Salisbury people.

—Holstead & Co., who purchased from Mr. A. L. Wright the store formerly occupied by A. E. Trites, have had the establishment thoroughly renovated during the summer. The whole building has been converted into a commodious store about 60 feet in length, and the ceiling raised about 16 inches. An addition of 50 feet has been made from the rear of this to serve as a rough back store. Then there is almost unlimited room for storage up stairs, to say nothing of the fine large cellar. The repairs have been made by Messrs. Wilson & Parker. Although the building is not very showy from the outside it will be by far the largest mercantile establishment in the place.

Satisfactory Results in Montreal.

Whilst Montreal is a model city in many respects it is not exactly a quarter section of Paradise, as Capt. Geo. Murphy, Chief of Government Police can testify. A reporter of a Montreal journal waited upon this gentleman a short time ago, and put to him the following query:

"Chief, do you find the duties irksome and dangerous in your strange calling?"

"Irksome," replied Mr. Murphy, "I seldom find them; but they are attended with danger is very true. There is danger to be faced, of course, from wind, weather and criminals, and the least of these dangers, is not those of exposure and bad weather. The heavy, moist atmosphere that gathers over the water is very conductive to rheumatism, and many of my men suffer from that complaint more or less. I believe that our danger from exposure from this time forward is past, as St. Jacobs Oil, if applied in time in cases for rheumatism, has a wonderful way of knocking that malady out of people. It certainly relieved me of a severe pain in my shoulders."

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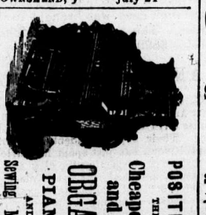

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1882 SUMMER ARRANGEMENT 1882

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WILL LEAVE SACKVILLE:
Express for St. John and Quebec, 12.12 a.m.
Express for Halifax and Pictou, 4.00 a. m.
Accommodation for Moncton, . 8.48 a. m.
Express for Halifax and Pictou, 1.04 p. m.
Express for St. John & P. du Chene 2.12 p.m.
Accommodation for Amherst and Spring Hill.....8.54 p. m.

WILL LEAVE DORCHESTER:
Express for St. John and Quebec, 12.36 a.m.
Express for Halifax and Pictou, 3.35 a. m.
Accommodation for Moncton ...9.23 a. m.
Express for Halifax and Pictou, 12.37 p. m.
Express for St. John & P. du Chene, 2.39p.m.
Accommodation for Amherst and Spring Hill.....8.10 p. m.

The Express Train from Quebec runs to Halifax and St. John on Sunday morning, and the Express Train from Halifax and St. John runs to Campbellton on Sunday morning.

D. POTTINGER,
Chief Superintendent.
Railway Office, Moncton, N. B., June 27th, 1882.

PARTNERSHIP
THE undersigned have entered into Co-partnership as general partners to manufacture and consign goods, under the name and firm of
F. J. HEBERT & CO.
FERDINAND J. HEBERT.
OBELINE HEBERT.
Shediac, N. B., Sept. 15th, 1881.

Snow Shade
Is the Shade that you will Obtain by Washing with
MRS. HEBERT'S
Liquid Blueing
The Best is the Cheapest!
It is the best, because it will not spot the clothes.
It is the best, because it gives a desirable color.
It is the best, because it will not injure the finest fabric.
It is the cheapest, because a can of it contains a half-a-pint.
It is the cheapest, because a can of it will do as much washing as eight boxes of the Pearl Blue.
It is the cheapest, because it shades the clothes, and
MAKES A WRITING INK
which will not corrode the pen.
Keep It Out of the Frost, and Satisfaction is Guaranteed.
PUT UP BY
F. J. HEBERT & CO.,
dec29 SHEDIAC, N. B.

Raisins, Cheese, &c.
JUST RECEIVED:
50 BOXES COOKING RAISINS;
50 boxes Cheese, prime new;
100 boxes Macaroni—Italian;
44 boxes Vermicelli—Italian;
3 barrels Ground Ginger;
9 bags Walnuts.
LOW TO THE TRADE.
Stephens & Figgures,
DOCK STREET. ST. JOHN, N. B.

For the Best and Cheapest Sheet Iron
ROOFING
Address SCOTT & CO., Montreal, Quebec.

WESLEYAN
LADIES' COLLEGE,
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Will Re-open SEPTEMBER 1st, 1882.
The First Ladies' College in the Dominion. Thoroughly equipped in Literature, Science, Languages, Music and Art. For terms, &c., address the Principal,
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AN English Veterinary Surgeon and Chemist, now travelling in this country, says that most of the Horse and Cattle Powders sold here are worthless trash. He says that Sheridan's Condition Powder are absolutely pure and immensely valuable. Nothing on earth will make hens lay like Sheridan's Condition Powders. Dose, one teaspoonful to one pint food. Sold everywhere, or sent by mail for eight letter stamps. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., Boston, Mass., formerly Bangor, Me. june21-1y

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JOHNSON'S ANODYNE LINIMENT will positively prevent this terrible disease, and will positively cure nine cases out of ten. Information that will save many lives, sent free by mail. Don't delay a moment. Prevention is better than cure.
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