

the corporate boundaries were much extended after 1840, several thousand persons are now living without the city bounds, and will be enumerated with those of the county. On January 1st, 1849, the census, not taken closely, gave 64,000; while in the city and suburbs, there were not less than 73,000 persons. With all the diminution by cholera, the increase in twelve months has been large; and our lowest estimate is 85,000.

Two incidents of the last year, will close the volume.

1. **THE CHOLERA.**—Cases of this fearful disease appeared on boats navigating the lower Mississippi, during the last months of 1848; and an unusual predisposition to diarrhoeas, and affections of the bowels, was manifested in St. Louis at the same time. Two cases of cholera, and one death, occurred the first week in January, 1849. According to Dr. McPheters,† there were 38 deaths from cholera in January, (two-thirds of the cases being imported from New Orleans,) 30 deaths in March, 18 in April. In the first week in May, there was a fearful increase in the progress of the disease, and of deaths. Deaths from all diseases, per week, from 118 to 193. Total deaths in May, 786; cholera 517. For two weeks following the great fire, there was a perceptible decrease in the mortality and number of cases. During the first week in June, there were 144 deaths; 74 of cholera. Second week, 233 deaths; 139 of cholera. Third week, 522 deaths; 428 from cholera. Fourth week, 798 deaths; 636 from cholera. From June 26th to July 2nd, 951 deaths; 739 from cholera;—from July 3rd to 9th, 851 deaths; 654 from cholera. From July 10th to the 16th, 888 deaths; 669 from cholera. From July 17th to the 23rd, 440 deaths, 269 from cholera. Last week in July, 231 deaths; 131 from cholera. During the entire year of 1849, the mortality of the city was 8,603; cholera, (according to Dr. McPheters) 4,557. Other reports increase the cholera cases to 4,800. The cholera disappeared (except occasional cases) after the 10th of August. From the first of November, 1849, to the first of April, 1850, unusual health has prevailed for a city population.

2. **THE GREAT FIRE,** broke out on the steamboat *White Cloud*, near the foot of Cherry street, at the hour of 10 o'clock at night, on the 17th of May, 1849. The wind was from a North-Eastern direction, and blew with great force all the night. In a short time 23 steamboats were on fire, and consumed; some with valuable cargoes on board. The fire first caught the stores at the foot of Locust street; then, by another burning boat at the foot of Elm street, and simultaneously two fires were sweeping over several squares; driven by the wind with resistless fury. Massive buildings of brick or stone, three and four stories in height, offered no resistance. The fires from the buildings and the boats, cut off all communication with the river, and by 2 o'clock, A. M., on the 18th, the city reservoir was exhausted. Up to this time, the firemen did all that men and machinery could do, to stop the devouring element. Buildings were blown up, several valuable lives were lost; but about 8 o'clock, A. M., after ten hours devastation, its fury was spent. About 400 buildings were burnt; many of them large wholesale stores. The steamboats, their cargoes, and produce on the landing, were valued at 518,500; buildings, \$802,748; merchandize, \$654,950. Add to furniture, provisions, clothing, etc., and the loss was estimated at \$2,750,000. About two-thirds the value were covered by insurance. The cholera during the summer, was more fatal than the fire, to the business of the city.

And now, as we look over the "burnt district," much the largest proportion is covered with buildings of a superior character; streets are widened, and even naked lots sell higher per linear foot, than they did before the **GREAT FIRE**.

†History of the Epidemic Cholera in St. Louis, in 1849; Medical and Surgical Journal for March, 1850.