The Weekly Observer.

Established in 1818, Under the title of "The Star." } Whole No. 721.

ST. JOHN, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1832.

Vol. IV. No. 34.

THE WEEKLY OBSERVER,
PUBLISHED ON TUESDAYS, BY
DONALD A. CAMERON.

Office—In Mr. Hatfield's brick building, west side of the Market-Square, St. John, N. B.

Terms—City Subscribers ... ... 15s. per annum:
Country do. (by mail) ... 17s. 6d. ditto;
Country do. (not by mail) 15s. ditto;
(half to be paid in advance.)

Printing, in its various branches, executed with neatness and despatch, on very moderate terms.

Weekly Almanack.

March—1832.		Sun Rises.	Sun Sets.	Moon Rises.	Full Sea.
29 Wednesday	- -	6 32	5 28	5 35	0 15
1 Thursday	- -	6 30	5 30	6 0	0 50
2 Friday	- -	6 29	5 31	sets.	1 25
3 Saturday	- -	6 27	5 32	6 50	morn.
4 Sunday	- -	6 25	5 33	7 57	0 0
5 Monday	- -	6 24	5 34	9 6	0 34
6 Tuesday	- -	6 22	5 35	10 16	1 5

New Moon 24, 10h. 50m. morn.

THE GARLAND.

From the Hartford Episcopal Watchman.

THE LOST DARLING.

BY MRS. SIGOURNEY.

She was my idol.—Night and day to scan
The fine expansion of her form,—and mark
The unfolding mind, like vernal rose-bud start
To sudden beauty, was my chief delight.
To find her fairy footsteps following me,
Her head upon my garments, or her lip
Close seal'd to mine,—and in the watch of night
The quiet breath of innocence to feel
Stir on my cheek,—was such a full content
Of happiness, as none but mothers know.
Her voice was like some tiny harp, that yields
To the light-finger'd breeze,—and as it held
Brief converse with her doll,—or kindly soothed
Her moaning kitten,—or with patient care
Conn'd o'er the alphabet; but most of all
Its tender cadence in her evening prayer,
Thrill'd on the ear like some ethereal tone,
Heard in sweet dreams.—But now alone I sit,
Musing of her,—and dew with mournful tears
The little robes that once with woman's pride
I wrought,—as if there were a need to deck
A being formed so beautiful. I start,
Half fancying from her empty crib there comes
A restless sound, and breathes the accustomed words
"Hush, hush, Louisa, dearest!"—Then I weep
As though it were a sin to speak to one
Whose home is with the angels.—

—*Gone to God!*

And yet I wish I had not seen the pang
That wrung her features,—nor the ghostly white
Settling around her lips.—I would that Heaven
Had taken its own, like some transplanted flower,
In all its bloom and freshness.

—*Gone to God!*

Be still, my heart!—What could a mother's prayer
In all the wildest extacy of hope,
Ask for its darling, like the bliss of Heaven?

IMMORTALITY.

"As the minute eye of the naturalist may, in the caterpillar or the chrysalis, perhaps discover prognostics of the future inhabitants of the air, may not the serious observer of the human soul find forebodings of its future elevation; and even amid its struggle with the sorrows of the present life, may he not mark its progress to a higher state of being?"—Anonymous.

"Ah! mortal, on thy closing eyes,
Another day shall still unfold;
A sun of milder radiance rise,
A happier age of joys untold.
Shall the poor worm that shocks thy sight,
The humblest form in nature's train,
Thus rise in new born lustre bright,
And yet the emblem teach in vain?
Ah! where were once her golden eyes,
Her glittering wings of purple pride?
Concealed beneath a rude disguise,
A shapeless mass to earth allied.
Like thee, the hapless reptile lived,
Like thee he toiled, like thee he spun;
Like thine his closing hour arrived;
His labour ceased, his web was done.
And shalt thou, numbered with the dead,
Ne happier state of being know?
And shall no future morrow shed
On thee a beam of brighter glow?
Is this the bound of power divine,
To animate an insect frame?
Or shall not he who moulded thine,
Wake at his will the vital flame?"

THE DAISY.

Not worlds on worlds, in phalanx,
Need we, to prove a God is here;
The daisy, fresh from winter's sleep,
Tells of his hand in lines as clear.

For who but He who arch'd the skies,
And pours the day-spring's living flood,
Wondrous alike in all he tries,
Could rear the daisy's purple bud.

Mould its green cup, its wiry stem,
Its fringed border nicely spig,
And cut the gold-embossed gem,
That set in silver gleams within?

And fling it, unrestrain'd and free,
O'er hill and dale and desert sod,
That man, where'er he walks, may see,
In ev'ry step the stamp of God.

MISCELLANEA.

NATIONAL CALAMITIES.

Of the numerous and varied pestilencies which have assailed mankind in every quarter of the known world, from the earliest accounts, traditionary and recorded, none have been more overwhelmingly destructive to the human race than the Plague. Of the primary source of this malady nothing satisfactory is known. That it is a disease of the remotest antiquity cannot be doubted—inasmuch as it is noticed successively by the Romans and Arabians, and through all the subsequent record of nations down to the present date.

The earliest Jewish history in the Pentateuch indubitably proves its existence, where allusion is made to it under the designation of the Hebrew word *Deber*. Egypt would appear to be the place whence the Jews imagined the pestilence to have emanated. Timaeus describes the prevalence of the plague at Athens—which was reiterated in the much admired account given by Lucretius. About the middle of the second century of the Christian era, Rome was visited by a severe plague, which in all probability was introduced to the capital by the army of Lucius Varus on his return from Parthia. Galen notices the plague in his writings. On the authority of Eusebius, we name A.D. 302, as the period of the Syrian plague, which was so mortal during its prevalence. In the year 540, during the reign of Justinian, a severe and extensive pestilence raged over the greater part of Europe and Asia for half a century.

The earliest on Jewish visitation in Britain of this disease is that [illegible] in [illegible] 664. The last time it raged as an epidemic was in the year [illegible] the years 1664—5. [illegible] Britain since 1679; and [illegible] to 1815; from which period [illegible] tour of havoc throughout the continent of Europe. It reached Aleppo in 1693, remaining for five years. At Dunkirk it appeared in 1697. Gotwald mentions it as having prevailed at Dantzic in 1709. It in a bad Provence in 1720, and in 1771 Moscow was infected from communication with the Turkish army. Smyrna was nearly devastated in 1784, and Grand Cairo in 1798. The plague broke out in the Indian army during the Egyptian expedition in 1801. The British camp was attacked with plague while in Egypt. Of those seized of the French army under Napoleon at the battle of the Pyramids, only one in five recovered, whereas 361 only of the English army died during the two years—a fact which shows the superiority of British practice. The plague now reached, in 1815, the little rock of Malta"—Nova in 1815, and Smyrna in 1817.

The mortality was dreadful. At Moscow, 1,200 are reported to have fallen victims in twelve hours. In Athens and London the dead were too numerous for interment.

Evelyn, in his Kalendarium, under date of Sept. 7, says—"Near 10,000 now died weekly; however, I went all along the city and suburbs from Kent street to St. James' square, a dismal passage, and dangerous to see so many coffins exposed in the streets thin or people, shepherd up, and all in mournful silence, as not knowing whose turn it might be next."

At Grand Cairo the annual mortality averaged 7,000. It would seem as established fact, that this malady cannot engender in a native climate, should the temperature of the surrounding atmosphere be above 84 degrees of Fahrenheit, nor under 6°.

The next national visitation is that of small pox.—We cannot tell when it was, prior to the 10th century, but we learn that it was known to the Greeks or Romans. Certain we are that it was observed in Asia and China for an irrecollectable period before its appearance in Britain. We can trace its course from China to India—thence to Arabia Felix, and the migrations of the Saracen arms brought it to the Levant, whence it was disseminated to Spain, Sicily, Africa, and by the merchant ships brought back to Europe.

This scourge, in point of mortality, rivalled the plague, diffusing itself indiscriminately everywhere. The hamlet and industrious habitations of the poor of the land, and the princely inhabitants of the palaces of Kings, were equally and impartially visited by the deformed travesty of this loathsome disease. Twenty years more no fewer than eleven illustrious individuals of the Imperial House of Austria fell victims to this visitation.

The yellow fever in the West India Islands; the Bulam fever and the endemics of Madras, all contribute to the destruction of the human race. An Hawaiian air of a nature so pestiferous blows from the coast, which, meeting within hourly offensive miasma which rises from the southeast upon the Guinea coast, generates a compound which causes a mortality so horrifically great, that Dr. Bland tells us the living were unable to bury the dead.

In the negro towns in 1754-5, the gates of Cape Castle were left unguarded. The sentinels were smitten to the ground, as if by the magic hand of an invisible agent. At Cuiza, a pestiferous or the nature of plague appeared in 1746; the air from its stagnant state became so vitiated, that its noxious qualities affected even animals! Canary birds died, blood issuing from their bills. And in the neighboring towns which were afterwards infected, not a sparrow was to be seen!

We now proceed to cholera, the last dreadful pestilence in our catalogue of national calamities. As to the early history of this disease, there is also much uncertainty and contradiction. Bontius supposes that it was known to the Greeks. Sydenham describes a disease exactly like the cholera, which was prevalent in 1774. The Medical Hindoo writers are said to have described it, and particularly the renowned *Dhanwantera*, the Hindoo Esculapius.

The following has been its progress: in 1769, at Ambore Valley; and at Arcot it appeared in 1781. At Mauritius, in 1788. It reached the presidency of Madras in 1792. Where in 1787, and in [illegible] thereafter, it spread to Trincomalee. It appeared in India in 1807, in shape so unquestionable, that it was regarded as a new disease. At Jessore, (100 miles N. E. of Calcutta,) it raged most furiously, visiting and ravaging in its course the population of Benares, Allahabad, Cawnpore, Delhi, &c. &c. travelling as if by a chain of posts. It now reached the grand army, and devastated the Deccan. Spreading to Poonah, and crossing to Salsettee, it arrived at Bombay in September, 1818, exactly 12 months after its appearance at Calcutta. It reached the Persian Gulf in 1821, and in 1823, it prevailed at Astrachan, which proves that Europe was then closely threatened.—Mr. Cornish, in a communication from Persia in 1822, made the following prediction: "I much fear it will extend to Europe, where the crowded cities and great population will make it more severely felt than in the scattered cities and scanty population of Persia."

It has passed over 60 degrees longitude, and 66 degrees latitude; crossing the equator to the boundary line of Southern tropics, and from the Northern tropic to the Temperate Zone. Of its remote cause we really know nothing: it seems to give the lie to all our known laws of contagion—spreading in India in the teeth of the most powerful monsoons. And now Mr. Cornish's prediction is verified; it *has* visited Europe. At Moscow, out of a population of 380,000 in forty two days there were 4,340 cases, out of that number only 674 cases recovered, and 2340 died. At St. Petersburgh, out of a population of 350,000, 7737 were attacked in the first thirty two days, and 3972 died; only 2282 recovered. It raged for some time in Vienna, then again appeared at St. Petersburgh, and at length reached Hamburg; thus leaving the German Ocean as the only barrier to the spread of the contagion in Great Britain. The result of its progress hitherto too fully attest the utter insufficiency of sanatary cordons in checking this dreadful pestilence.—*English paper.*

Celestial Phenomenon.—A late number of the London Literary Gazette contains the following brilliant description of the transit of the planet Mercury over the Sun's disc, on the 5th of May next. It will appear as a circular black spot on the face of the Sun for nearly 7 hours.

This interesting phenomenon will be visible, from its commencement to its termination, to the whole of Europe and a great part of Africa; the ingress will be visible to Asia, and the egress to America. There is no doubt but that every lover of the science of astronomy, within the limits of the visibility of the transit, will endeavour to witness the spectacle—to see this bright and beautiful gem, that shines with such a rosy brilliancy as the morning or evening star—now melting away in the effulgence of the rising day, and then heralding the bright hosts of stars, to glitter on the midnight sky,—to see this lovely jewel of the ruddy dawn or evening shades enter on the Sun's glowing orb, with not merely dimmed splendour, but shrouded in intense blackness, pursuing its course over a field of glory, yet clad in gloom;—such a phenomenon will not fail to interest; and the observer, as he marks the blackness of the planet in contrast with the splendor of the Sun, may apply the celebrated line to the messenger of the gods—

"Dark with excessive light, his robes appear."

The eclipses and transits of Mercury, for many centuries to come, can take place only in the months of May and November.

The year 1832 will be distinguished by several remarkable celestial phenomena. The comet of Encke will cross the earth's orbit in the spring, and the comet of Biela (the dreadful comet of 1832) in the autumn. In July a solar eclipse [illegible] [illegible] will be [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]