

amongst them, in its most malignant form. Out of the seventeen men who took part in the raid, it is asserted that not one escaped the infection and only two of the number appear to have survived. The disease once introduced into the camp, spread with the utmost rapidity, numbers of men, women and children, fell victims to it during the month of June—the cures of the medicine men were found utterly unavailing, to arrest it and as a last resource the camp broke up into small parties. Some directing their march towards Edmonton and others to Victoria, Saddle Lake, Fort Pitt and along the whole line of the North Saskatchewan. Thus at the same period, the beginning of July, Small Pox of the very worst description was spread throughout some 500 miles of territory, appearing almost simultaneously at the Hudson's Bay Company's Posts, from the Rocky Mountain House to Carlton.

It is difficult to imagine a state of pestilence more terrible than that which kept pace with these moving armies of Crees during the summer months of 1870. By streams and lakes, in willow copses, and upon bare hill sides, often shelterless from the fierce rays of the summer sun, and exposed to the rains and dews of night, the poor plague-stricken wretches lay down to die. No assistance of any kind, for the ties of family were quickly loosened and mothers abandoned their helpless children upon the way side, fleeing onward to some fancied place of safety. The district lying between Fort Pitt and Victoria, a distance of about 140 miles, was perhaps the scene of the greatest suffering.

In the immediate neighborhood of Fort Pitt, two camps of Crees established themselves, at first in the hope of obtaining medical assistance and failing in that, for the officer in charge soon exhausted his slender store, they appear to have endeavored to convey the infection into the Fort, in the belief that by doing so they would cease to suffer from it themselves. The dead bodies were left unburied close to the stockades, and frequently Indians in the worst stage of the disease might be seen trying to force an entrance into the houses, or rubbing portions of the scab from their persons against the door handles and window frames of the dwellings. It is singular that only three persons within the Fort should have been infected with the disease, and I can only attribute the comparative immunity enjoyed by the residents at that post to the fact that Mr. John Sinclair had taken the precaution early in the summer, to vaccinate all the persons residing there, having obtained the vaccine matter from a Saulteaux Indian who had been vaccinated at the mission of Prince Albert, presided over by Rev. Mr. Nesbit, sometime during the spring. In this matter of vaccination a very important difference appears to have existed between the Upper and Lower Saskatchewan. At the settlement of St. Albert near Edmonton, the opinion prevails that vaccination was of little or no avail to check the spread of disease, while on the contrary residents on the lower portion of the Saskatchewan asserted that they cannot trace a single case in which death had ensued after vaccination had been properly performed. I attribute this difference of opinion upon the benefits resulting from vaccination to the fact that the vaccine matter used at St. Albert and Edmonton was of a spurious description, having been brought from Fort Benton, on the Missouri River, by traders during the early summer, and that also it was used when the disease had reached its height, while on the other hand the vaccination carried on from Mr. Nesbit's Mission ap-

pears to have been commenced early in the spring and also to have been of a genuine description.

At the Mission of St. Albert, called also "Big Lake," the disease assumed a most malignant form, the infection appears to have been introduced into the settlement from two different sources almost at the same period. The summer hunting party met the Blackfeet on the plains and visited the Indian camp (then infected with small pox) for the purpose of making peace and trading. A few days later the disease appeared among them and swept off half their number in a very short space of time. To such a degree of helplessness were they reduced that when the prairie fires broke out in the neighborhood of their camp they were unable to do anything towards arresting its progress or saving their property. The fire swept through the camp destroying a number of horses, carts and tents, and the unfortunate people returned to their homes at Big Lake carrying the disease with them. About the same time some of the Crees also reached the settlement, and the infection thus communicated from both quarters, spread with amazing rapidity. Out of a total population numbering about 900 souls 600 caught the disease, and up to the date of my departure from Edmonton, (22nd December,) 311 deaths had occurred. Nor is this enormous percentage of deaths much to be wondered at when we consider the circumstances attending this epidemic. The people huddled together in small hordes, were destitute of medical assistance or of even the most ordinary requirements of the hospital. During the period of delirium incidental to small pox, they frequently wandered forth at night into the open air, and remain for hours exposed to dew or rain; in the latter stages of the disease they took no precautions against cold and frequently died from relapse produced by exposure, on the other hand they appeared to have suffered but little pain after the primary fever passed away, "I have frequently," says Piero Andre, "asked a man in the last stages of small pox whose end was close at hand, if he was suffering much pain and the almost invariable reply was, None whatever." They seemed also to have died without suffering, although the fearfully swollen appearance of the face, upon which scarcely a feature was visible, would lead to the supposition that such a condition must of necessity be accompanied by great pain.

The circumstances attending the progress of the epidemic at Carlton House are worthy of notice both on account of the extreme virulence which characterized the disease at that post, and also as no official record of this visitation of small pox would be complete which failed to bring to the notice of Your Excellency the undaunted heroism displayed by a young officer of the Hudson's Bay Company, who was in temporary charge of the station.

(To be continued.)

FOREIGN NAVAL AND MILITARY ITEMS.

The commanders of German army corps will each receive small appropriations from the Emperor of Germany's private exchequer.

Mr. E. J. Reed, C.B., F.R.S., late Chief Constructor of the Navy, left Manchester on Wednesday, May 3, for London, en route to St. Petersburg. He stopped at Sheffield, and paid a short visit on business to the Cyclops Works.

The French Minister of War Le Flô is at present negotiating with the American Captain Lowe for the purchase of a large number of Gatling guns.

Captain Vivian of the English army gives in a paper the pay of the British soldiers per week. The pay of the engineers is the highest; that of the household troops is the next.

The great iron works at Perm, on the Kamra, have just turned out thirty-eight highly-finished steel guns, of 9 in. and 11 in. bore. Similar pieces are being cast in great numbers at Petrozavodsk and other Government factories.

Mr. G. Griffin, C.E., who has undertaken to raise Her Majesty's ship *Captain*, has been informed by the Admiralty that they will not interfere with or assist him in any arrangements he may make, but they will, in the event of his endeavours being successful, pay salvage for the vessel.

The following new feature of United States diplomacy is reported by the *Mechanics' Magazine*: "Commodore Rodgers, United States naval attaché to the American Legation in London, has been lately inspecting the various ships now building at Chatham Dockyard, and the different departments of the yard."

The remains of General Sir Ralph Abercrombie, one of the British dead at Aboukir, which were interred seventy years ago in a vault within Fort St. Elmo, at Malta, have, with the leaden coffin containing them, been recently placed in a new receptacle, their original resting place having been disturbed by the necessity of new heavy gun platforms.

The *Broad Arrow* thus alludes to and discredits a report that the British Admiralty had purchased the "Austrian" or fish torpedo, the invention of an Englishman at Trieste: "It has been rumored that the Admiralty are negotiating with Mr. Whitehead for the purchase of his fish torpedo, and that £15,000 is the sum likely to be given for this invention. This, however, is mere rumor."

Even the Chinese appear to be resorting to torpedoes of a defensive character, as, according to our last dates of the *China Mail*, application has been made by high Chinese officials to certain natives to superintend the construction of some infernal machines, a sort of torpedo, for use in the Peiho. They are of similar construction to those used there in 1860; and it is difficult to avoid the inference that they are intended for a similar use—the attempted destruction of foreign vessels.

BREAKFAST.—EPPS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—The very agreeable character of this preparation has rendered it a general favorite. The *CIVIL SERVICE GAZETTE* remarks:—"The singular success which Mr. Epps attained by his homœopathic preparation of cocoa has never been surpassed by any experimentalist. By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which saves us many heavy doctors' bills." Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold by the Trade only in 1lb., 1/2lb., and 1/4lb. unlined packets, labelled—JAMES EPPS & Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London, England.