

starting point was either in the beleaguered City of Paris or in the camp of the besieging army. Such epidemics are often traceable to the massing of large bodies of troops in field or in camp, and their appearance often follows at a short interval after the tidings of battles and sieges. It is probable that the small-pox of 1871 will prove to have been connected with the Franco-German campaign in the same manner in which the typhus epidemics of the early years of this century were connected with the wars that followed the French Revolution. But whether the disease acquired its virulence from germs of infection imported from beyond the channel or developed it by maturation at home, this much is certain, that during the last ten or twelve weeks of 1870, small-pox, of an unprecedentedly malignant type, began to show itself in London. It increased there, the deaths gradually rising from forty or fifty to two or three hundred per week, and gradually spread to some seventeen of the principal cities of the kingdom, in which, during the course of last year, it destroyed more than 13,000 people, and nearly 8,000 of them in London alone. Early in 1871 it spread westward along the principal commercial highways to New York and other new centres in North America, from which it extended itself, always travelling with the sun, until at the present date few of the larger cities of Canada and the United States are free from it. In England it seems now to be upon the decline, but a month or two ago it entered Scotland and became epidemic in Edinburgh. It will probably visit all the remaining sections of the United Kingdom before it takes its departure. Upon our side of the Atlantic it bids fair to extend across the whole breadth of the continent and renew in California the havoc of 1868. Such is a brief sketch of its geographical diffusion.

There are three points connected with the appearance of the disease in St. John to which I would like to call your attention, and these are: First, the peculiar circumstances under which the disease was introduced; secondly, the measures that were employed to check its spread; and thirdly, the peculiar character of type that it presented. And first, with regard to the

ORIGIN OF THE EPIDEMIC.

On the last day of the year 1870 a man named John W— came to St. John from Portland, Me., his history, so far as then known, being that of a sailor just landed and paid off from a long sea voyage, and wishing to spend a few days in diversion upon his way home to his friends upon the North Shore. He took lodgings in a small house near the end of Erin street, and within a stone's throw of the Marsh Bridge, where he remained about a