

less than 170 more in passengers and crew, the former of an indigent class of Missouri emigrants *en route* to the mines, besides cattle, horses and sheep, making a total of 382 souls confined at all hours to the narrow, hampered space constituting the decks of a vessel one hundred and eighty feet long, by forty wide, the greater portion of which was occupied by the engine, boiler and machinery, merchandise and live stock below, and above by saloons and cabins, leaving little space available for the use of the men. The weather during much of the passage was windy, wet and cold, and the men, greatly restricted for space to lie down in, were much exposed to the influences of the weather and malaria (in which latter the Missouri Valley abounds) more especially at night when crowded together on the bare and exposed decks. Under such circumstances, sickness among the men was to be expected, and these expectations were soon verified, much illness prevailing. I had several cases of remittent fever, three of diphtheria, one of measles, many of ordinary intermittent fever and parotitis, and almost universal diarrhoea, produced by drinking the Missouri water, so that my time was continually and anxiously occupied during the greater part of every 24 hours. One of the officers, Inspector Dowling, was among the fever patients for a few days, and for the time was very ill. Much disease prevailed also among the Missouri emigrants and crew, who crowded the fore part and lower waist of the vessel in the foul space between decks, among the cattle and sheep, and a steamer passed us on her way to Benton, when six days out, having small pox on board, which exposed us at every stopping place where she had touched before us, to increased danger, necessitating the vaccination of all those not previously protected.

In the interest of the men more directly under my care, if not from mere motives of humanity, I was constrained to take charge of all on board, who without distinction were cared for daily, entailing an amount of labour, anxiety and responsibility, which I can never forget, which seriously impaired my own health and strength and from the effects of which I am hardly even now, entirely recovered, having enjoyed no interval of rest.

We were overtaken on this voyage, by one other fatal casualty, occasioned by the falling overboard, at a dangerous and rapid part of the river, of one of the recruits named Wahl, whose body we were unable to recover.

Several of the force being still seriously ill, on reaching the Coal-Banks, one of the bull waggons was converted into a hospital van, for their accomodation, and all were fortunately brought safely through to Fort Walsh, where some of them remained in hospital for weeks afterwards, but happily without fatal results.

On the 13th of May, the day after my arrival at Fort Walsh, I entered upon the active duties of surgeon, at that post, taking charge of the hospital and prescribing daily for sick Indians, large numbers of whom were at that time encamped in the immediate neighbourhood of the Fort. Here I remained one month, namely until the 12th of July, on which day I was directed to proceed to Fort McLeod in medical charge of 103 men and two officers destined to reinforce that Post and Fort Calgary. A tabulated statement showing the diseases and injuries treated by me at the hospital at Fort Walsh for the period referred to will be found in Appendix (1) accompanying this report.

On the 24th of July after thirteen days of weary travel in company with a bull train, the detachment arrived at Fort McLeod and encamped outside the walls. No Assistant Surgeon was stationed at this post, then garrisoned by 66 non commissioned officers and men, which number was shortly afterwards increased to 95 non-commissioned officers and men. The need of one was seriously felt, as, notwithstanding the natural salubrity of the climate, the number of sick was considerable, their ailments being attributable partly to the crowded, close and unwholesome quarters constituting the barracks and sleeping apartments to which they were confined, full particulars of which are given in my Report on the condition of that post under date of August 3rd. 1882, to which I have the honour to refer you, and in a still greater degree to the late rapid and alarming spread of venereal diseases, more especially syphilis of a malignant type which prevails at this post to a frightful extent among the Indians who visit it in great numbers from the neighbouring