

The lands on each side are low and very rich, cover'd with large timber; they likewise abound with poisonous shrubs and woods of various kinds: the falling of whose leaves, impregnate the ponds and rivulets with their unwholesome qualities; hence, these waters are not to be drank without manifest bad effects; indeed I observed, that most of the men employed to bring down the batteaus from fort Newport, who were obliged to be continually in the water, had the skin entirely taken from their feet, in which a very high inflammation was rais'd: if such was the effect on the external parts, how much more injurious must its efficacy have been, on the stomach and bowels, as they were under the necessity of making it their common drink whilst in their passage.

The very extraordinary sickness, which afterwards prevailed among our troops, was probably, in a great measure, owing to the bad quality of the waters they drank and cook'd with; it is true Col. Bradstreet had obtain'd a plentiful supply
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