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For the CATHOLIC RECORD. GROSSE ISLE. 1847.

BY JAMES M. O'LEARY, OF OFTAWA.

CONTINUED FROM OUR LAST.

"The consequence is that every day my reverend fellow-laborers and the devoted medical gentlemen who imperit their lives in the same cause are compelled to behold hundreds that a little providential precaution and ordinary care might have restored to their large and helpless, houseless families and distracted relations, hurried away in a few hours to their premature and unhonored grave, while those who should at once provide for their salvation, at every cost and sacrifice, are higgling about the means.

"Is it encouraging to a young professional man to expose himself to almost certain death, for the paltry remuneration (17s 6d a day) held out to those who tender their services? be hoped or expected that servants can be found for the trifle of payment (3s a day) offered as wages to those who are willing to come and spend their nights and their days in a fever hospital.

"I say it is my solemn conviction that no money should be spared to enlist the services of every person whom money may entice to this theatre of disease and death. It is my unalterable conviction, shared, I am sure, by all who now witness or have formerly seen the state of things here, that no sacrifice should be deemed great by the Government, or the Legislature, which might save to humanity so many lives, to Ireland so many grateful children, to the

Empire so many subjects.
"I am not to be told that the Imperial Government would hesitate for a single moment to re-fund the Province for every shilling expended in a cause so sacred in an emergency unparalleled in the history of nations. Why then all this frothing and talking and examining when the Government should be effectually doing every thing for the wretched ship-loads cast upon our shores? Where is the use of committees or commissions or inquiries or abuse of the Ministry, when that Ministry and Opposition should be unanimous in the suggestion and adoption of every measure which may afford a remedy proportionate to the appalling calamity?

This is strong language, but the language of a priest and an Irishman who is now in the midst f diseased death; who speaks out his heart and his mind with a hope of doing a little good where so much is imperiously required; who writes on the coffins of the hecatombs slaughtered by legis-lative neglec', much more than by the hand of sickness; who writes without the intention of wounding any or blaming, but with that of warning all concerned, with timely and salutary exertion ; who writes, too, as if the line he pens were to be his last, and that on the truth it contains were to rest his reputation in life, his hopes for

"With many thanks for your constant and warm advocacy for poor, suffering, heart-broken Ireland and Irishmen.

I remain, ever sincerely yours, B. O'REILLY.

As we have seen, the Provincial Parliament appointed a committee to enquire into the man-agement of quarantine, and that their labors were of short duration. They, however, found time on the 13th July to examine the Reverend Fathers Moylan, O'Reilly, Ferland, and captain, afterwards Admiral, Boxer, of Crimean fame.

The Reverend Father Moylan who visited the

island in the beginning of May, and afterwards towards the end of June, stated that on his arrival he found 1,100 sick, all under shelter but greatly erowded, and a great want of nurses, owing to which the sick were sadly neglected. In one in-

As for the sleeping arrangements in the old sheds, there was a double tier of beds, the upper tier being about three or four feet above the lower, and the planks of the upper tier not being close together, the consequence was that the filth of the upper patients fell upon the lower ones, who consequently could not breathe a pure air, being confined in so narrow a space. The up patients had the greatest difficulty in getting The upper and out of their berths. In time this inconveni-

ence was removed. The supply of food appeared ample, but the manner of distribution, very deficient. There was great distress on board the ships for want of the sick on shore were too largely supplied, and sufficient care was not taken with regard to the diet. "I have been compelled to take meat from patients who were in a state of (In alluding to this matter Dr. Douglas stated that it frequently happened that fever patients stole meat from the convalescent, falsely conceiving that animal food would give them

Cleanliness was pretty well observed in the new buildings and hospitals, but not so in the old sheds and tents, where filth was allowed to accumulate in the chamber vessels and to create a most dis-

agreeable stench In the tents and sheds sick persons were found lying a whole night until late the following day in close proximity. Oftentimes there were two, and sometimes three, in a bed. In the old sheds such was almost invariably the case, and in the

tents very often so.

Corpses were allowed to remain all night in the places were death had occurred, even when they had a companion in the same bed. "On one occa sion I observed to orderly Smith that there was a corpse in the same bed with a patient, and his reply was that in those cases they were left until the following morning."

In the buildings, old sheds and tents, men and women were put into the same apartment without

the old hospitals sufficient attention was paid to supply the fever patients with drinks (lemonade and barley water), but elsewhere, especially in the tents and old sheds, there was the greatest neglect, inasmuch that the clergymen themselves were often compelled to administer

In May the patients on board the vessels were nearly equal to those on shore, amounting to 1,100, almost entirely without medical attendance. In some vessels with sick on board four or five days sed without a doctor's visit. The mortality on poard was proportionally, at least, twice as great

The system of landing all the sick was put into complete operation only at the end of June.

There was also a lack of medical attendance on

board, provided by the vessels, and as for the engers they were very badly treated.

In many cases sickness arose from want of at-tention on the part of the master to keep the vessel in a clean condition, and also from an insufficient supply of food. Where the above some causes did not exist, sickness, if it prevailed, duty, never showed itself with the same intensity.

Father Mcylan visited several vessels on their arrival, and found the greater part of them in a filthy condition. The floor of the hold was covered with dirt, the chamber vessels had not literally crammed on board the steamers, ex been emptied for days, the beds were in a very dirty condition and full of vermin, and the passengers were necessarily in a very uncleanly

There was no delay in burying the dead. At first the graves were not dug a sufficient depth. Coffins were piled one over the other, and the earth covering the upper row, in some instances was not more than a foot deep, and, generally speaking, about a foot and a half. The cemetery vas about six acres in extent. Trenches for the bodies were dug about five or six feet deep, and six men were employed at the work.

By far the greater part of the level portion of the island was occupied by Dr. Douglas for agri-cultural purposes. The new hospitals were concultural purposes. The new hospitals were constructed too close to each other and to buildings already existing. Land near one of the old sheds, used as a farm, might have been more sheds, used as a farm, might have been more appropriately and more usefully given up for the ection of some of the hospitals

As to the money of the sick and dying emigrant, it was the general opinion of all the cle men who had been on duty on the island, that some nurses and orderlies were not over-scrupulous in appropriating it to themselves. Beside. in a few cases convalescents robbed their sick brethren.

In commenting on Father Moylan's evidence, Dr. Douglas stated that he experienced the greatest difficulty in obtaining nurses. He gave full authority to Father McQuirk, who complained of this want, to lure as many from the healthy pass engers as he could, but he was unable to obtain the services of even one. "The nearest relatives abandon each other whenever they can."

The doctor agreed that there was insufficient accommodation for the sick, that a few of the tents were without flooring, that iron bedsteads were now (July) used, and that the upper tier of berths in the hospitals, or sheds, at first intended for the healthy, had been removed.

As to meat being given to fever patients, he

stated that in the case mentioned by Father Moy-lan the meat was stolen from a convalescent. Such occurred more than once, "from the crav-ing which the lower order of Irish have for animal food, which they rarely taste, and which they falsely conceive will give them strength."

The sick, he acknowledged, were, at first, crowded in the old sheds and that disorder and a want of cleanliness existed. Fifth, no doubt, was allowed to accumulate in the chamber vessels.

Members of families, chiefly children, or husband and wife, frequently eccupied the same bed, but this arose from the impossibility of finding room, and the anxiety to get them out of the ships. In the old hospital the sick, except extreme young children, were one in a bed, and the

sexes kept in different wards.

The mortality on board of vessels was large, but might, in part, be accounted for by the fact that those who died for the two or three days preceding the arrival of the vessel at quarantine were kept to be buried on shore. Thus, the "Rose," from Liverpool, buried thirteen on the day of her arrival, and seven on the following day. Erin's Queen "brought nine bodies on shore or

He, the doctor, had seen bodies allowed to remain in the berths some time after death, as on board the "Sisters," where both passengers and seamen refused to remove the dead, and the erowded, and a great want of nurses, owing to which the sick were sadly neglected. In one instance he supplied water to the sick in a tent who had been there for the space of eighteen hours without any assistance. There was a sufficient without any assistance. There was a sufficient quantity of bedding, but precautions were not taken to lay planks as a flooring in several of the trained. The buildings were generally water it rained. The buildings were generally water tight.

The buildings were generally water as for the sleeping arrangements in the old their bunks with boat hooks, their nearest relations and the beds were sadly neglected. In one instances, the dead, and the seamen refused to remove the dead, and the captain himself, named Christian, had to go down to the hold, and carry up the corpses on his back. A short time after this truly good and humane quarantine station. Take, for example, the "Virginius" from Liverpool. This vessel left port with 528 passengers, 43 of whom board to an appaling extent, some vessels having lost one-fourth, and othery one-fourth, and othery one-fourth, and othery one-fourth. As for the sleeping arrangements in the old seamen refused to remove the dead, and the captain himself, named Christian, had to go down to the hold, and carry up the corpses on his back. A short time after this truly good and humane quarantine station. Take, for example, the "Virginius" from Liverpool. This vessel left port with 528 passengers, 43 of whom board to an appaling extent, some vessels having lost one-fourth, and othery one-fourth, and othery one-fourth, and other passengers for whom 15 all the fine at the died at sea, and two died while being landed at Grosse Isle. One hundred and sixty-two of her 'Virginius' from Liverpool. This vessel left port with 528 passengers, 43 of whom board to an appaling extent, some vessels having lost one-fourth, and other passengers one-third of their passengers of whom 15 all the passengers and mortality, and sickness and tent the of their passengers one-thi their bunks with boat hooks, their nearest relatives refusing to touch them.

Captain, afterwards Admiral, Boxer, in his evidence, stated that there was nothing more terrible than the sheds. Most of the patients were attacked with dysentery, and the smell was dreadful, as there was no ventilation. He found a want of assistance and attendance on the sick, and a difficulty in obtaining doctors and attendance ants owing in a measure to the salary paid, namely, 17s 6d to the former and 3s to the latter. He was of opinion that if proper representations had been made to the Government, after the arrival of the first ship, to receive emigrants as they arrived, the disease would have been prevented from spreading as it did. Again, if the intentions of the Government had been carried out with promptness, after representations had been made, Grosse Isle would have been in a condition to receive as many emigrants as might be expected. "It would seem," he said, "as if Mr. Buchanan (Chief Emigrant Agent at Quebec and Dr. Douglas were very cautious as to responsibility, and the heavy expenses to be

To this Mr. Buchanan replied that he did not anticipate a very considerable increase in the number of sick among the emigrants. "I did not make any official representations to the Government, as it was a subject that did not come with

in the control of my Department."

Father O'Reilly stated that he went to Grosse Isle on the 6th July and returned to Quebec on the 14th July. He saw emigrants in the sheds and tents lying on the bare boards and ground for whole nights and days without either bed or bedding. Two, and sometimes three, were in a berth. No distinction was made as to sex, age, or berth. nature of illness. Food was insufficient and the bread not baked. Patients were supplied three times a day with tea, gruel or broth.

He visited two ships, the "Avon" and the "Triton." The former lost 136 passengers on the voyage and the latter 93. He administered the last rites of religion to about 200 on board

The graves were only four feet deep, and three for coffins were laid therein. The burial coffins were laid therein. tier of ground was about two acres from the hospitals. No means were provided for the comfort of the sick and their restoration to health.

Fever found its way into town and country, due to a lack of system to prevent its ravages or to some egregious default in not carrying out a system. The action of the Provincial Government was very insufficient. Means for the recep-tion and care of the sick, for the attendance of for the obtaining of a necessary number of nurses, were inadequate. Even if there were doctors ated form of the Irish peasant, father, mother, enough, sick nurses enough, there was a scarry wife and husband, sister and brother. The rope the requisite number of doctors, and above all

supply of what was absolutely necessary for the was hoisted and with their heads and naked

his hands were tied.

Vessels came in daily with sick, and unless

literally crammed on board the steamers, exposed to the cold night air, or to the burning summer sun, or to the bitter east early wind, or to the drenching rain; and in this way, from the length of the sea voyage, the wretched quality of food and the pestilential atmosphere they were constantly inhaling, the most robust constitution soon gave way. As many as 800, 900, and even 1,000, in a state of uncleanliness and debility, were huddled together for forty-eight hours, the deck of the steamers; and Montreal and the Province soon learned the consequence of thus allowing emigrants to leave Grosse Isle without

a sufficient sanitary probation.
"I have seen," said Mr. de Vere, "small, incommodious, and ill-ventilated steamers, arriving at the quay in Toronto, after a forty-eight hours passage from Montreal, freighted with fetid cargoes of 1,100 and 1,200 Government emigrants of all ages and sexes. The healthy who had just arrived from Europe, mixed with the half-recovered convalescents of the hospitals, unable, during that time, to lie down, almost to sit. In almost every boat were clearly marked cases of actual fever-in some were deaths-the lead and the living huddled together.

Father O'Reilly further stated that he visited the camp at the north-west extremity of the island, intended for the reception of the healthy, and in the few hours he passed there administered the last sacraments to upwards of fifty persons. Being considered healthy, nothing was provided for them, so they had to look out persons. for themselves, and were lying either on beds they had brought with them from home, or planks, or on the damp ground. They could not, if taken ill, be removed to the hospitals immediately. The existing regulations prescribed that they should previously be put on board their respective ships,

and thence conveyed to the hospitals.

Very many left the station in a feeble state of health, with every danger of relapsing into fever on board the steamer before they reached Mon-

Father Ferland said that he arrived at Grosse Isle on the 29th June and remained a week. Nurses were obliged to occupy a bed in the midst of the sick, and had no private apartment where they could change their clothing. Their food was the same as was given to the emigrants, and had to be taken in haste, amid the effluvia of the sheds, and in this way were frequently infected with the fever; when sick they were deprived of aid. He instanced a case of a Mrs. Garneau, from Quebec, who remained three days in a shed without having any other assistance than that which she received from the Rev. Mr. Harper. Harper. This poor woman paid with her life the kind offices she had bestowed on the suffering Irish emigrant.

The report, he said, of these melancholy events, magnified by rumor, circulated in Quebec to such an extent that none were willing to expose themselves to a fate which seemed to wait on those who had the care of the sick.

In the greater part of the sheds he saw men, women and children huddled together. Throughout the months of July and August passenger vessels continued to arrive in great

numbers, each more sickly than the other. The calm sultry weather, and at times the heavy rains and cold east winds of these two months increased the mortality, and sickness the passengers, move the ship, or furl the sails. Three days after her arrival there remained of the ship's crew only the second mate, one seaman and a boy able to duty. All the others were either dead or ill in the hospital.

Two days after the arrival of this ill-fated ship the barque "Naomi" arrived. She left Liverpool with 241 passengers, of whom 78 died on the passage, and 31 dead on board when she reached Grosse Isle, including several of the

And now a word as to the removal of the corpses from the vessels. They were brough from the hold, where the darkness was, as it were, rendered more visible by the miserable untrimmed oil lamp that showed light in some places sufficient to distinguish a form but not a It was, I might say, more by touch than by sight that the passengers knew each other. First came the touch and then the question, who is it? Even in the bunks many a loved one asked the same question to one by his or he side, for in the darkness that reigned their eyesight was failing them.

When the priest, leaving daylight and sunlight behind, as each step from deck led him down the narrow ladder into the hold of the vessels of those days, as wanting in ventilation as the black hole of Calcutta, he had to make himself known, and your poor Irish emigrant, with the love and reverence he had for his elergy, who stuck to him through thick and thin, endeavored to raise himself and warmly greet him with the little strength that remained.

Another death was announced on board, but no thrill, or excitement was caused by the news, among the seamen or passengers. As for the latter they had seen death by the road-side at home—they had seen their best and bravest fall "like leaves in wintry weather," at home and abroad, and they were prepared at any time for the inevitable. With them there was no fear, no the inevitable. shrinking from death, no longing for life. All the hopes they ever had of success on earth were forever, and their hopes now were beyond the grave - hopes with which their cherished religion inspired them.

Another death announced, orders were given by the cap ain for the removal of the body Kind hands in many cases attended to this. other cases, as we have seen, it was left to strangers. Up the little narrow ladder to deck, were the corpses borne in the same condition in which they died, victims among other things of which they died, victims and gets, and with filth, uncleanliness and bed sores, and with hardly any clothing on them. There was no hardly any clothing on them. pretence to decency or the slightest humanity

proper discharge of their respective duties. Dr. limbs dangling for a moment in mid-air, with Douglas could not obtain doctors and nurses, for the wealth of hair of the Irish maiden, or young Vessels came in daily with sick, and unless some person through kindness, for it was nobody's duty, brought the clergyman on board, the wretched emigrant was allowed to die in sight of rocks until such time as they were coffined. Well his clergy, without the supreme consolation of an Irish Catholic—the last rites of his Church.

When the emigrants left Grosse Isle they were details he received of the scenes of horror and desolation at the island almost staggered belief

and baffled description.

The barque "Sir Henry Pottinger" arrived about this time. She left Cork with 399 passengers, of whom 105 died at sea, including the captain's son and several of the crew.

The passengers by the "Virginius" and the "Naomi" were sent out at the expense and from the estates of Major Mahon, in the county Tyrone and the survivors were, without exception, the most wretched, sick and miserable beings that

landed on the island.

As a further instance of the extent to which sickness and mortality prevailed, the case of five vessels may be cited, namely, the "Sarah," "Erin's Queen," and "Triton," all from Liverpool, and the "Jessie" and "Avon," both from Cork. These vessels left their respective ports with an aggregate of 2,163 passengers, of whom 341 died at sea, 63 on board at Grosse Isle, and 317 in the hospitals there, making a total of 721 After a detention of thirteen days, the whole number able to leave the island was 915, and of this comparatively small number there was no doubt that a great proportion died on the route. Those who were landed at the tents in apparently good health fell ill from the exciting causes of change of air and diet, and many died suddenly

before they could be transferred to the hospitals By the end of August, however, long ranges of sheds had been erected with berths, capable of lodging 3,500 people, at the east end of the island. These buildings enabled the medical

superintendent to dispense with all the tents.

The completion of five new hospitals, in addition to the three alluded to, enabled all the sick to be removed on the 7th September from the marquees and bell tents, and to restore the churches to their former use.

On Sunday, 12th September, divine service was held in both churches

On the 8th September the old passenger sheds were vacated. The number of sick was now rewere vacated. duced to 1,327, of whom 150 were convalescent, and sent to the east end of the island, where, at last, male and female convalescent wards were established.

About this time the "Superior," from London derry, arrived. She left port with 366 passengers, 18 of whom died on the passage, 8 on board at quarantine, and 120 sick were sent to hospital. In squalor, wretchedness, filth and misery these poor creatures exceeded any that arrived during this season of death. As to their terrible con dition one fact will suffice. So destitute were they that the captain had to cut up the canvas breadbags to furnish clothing for some of them. Oh! what hearts must not the Irish landlords have possessed who could expose their fellow-creatures o such misery. Everlasting shame upon such fiends for their cool, calculating and mercenary

On the 13th September thirty hospital nurse were discharged, their services being no longer required.

On the 14th September there were 1,386 sick in the hospitals, and a cold easterly storm tried the poor creatures in the sheds most severely. On the 19th September there were 1,277 sick, namely, 491 men, 448 women and 338 children.

There were 1,240 cases of fever and 37 of small

The "Emigrant," from Liverpool, now arrived. She left port with 528 passengers, 43 of whom died at sea, and two died while being landed at

est number was invariably found, as in former years, in vessels from Liverpool. Cork and Dublin rivalled Liverpool in sending out sickly

It was observed, as in former years, that emigrants who came from distant country places to large sea-ports, there to await the sailing of a vessel, living in the meantime in crowded cellars and lodging houses, invariably suffered more from illness during the voyage and arrived in a more unhealthy condition than those who had but a short distance to come, and little delay at the

port of embarkation.

The disease which proved so fatal was, in most cases, brought on board, and many captains of vessels could, on going into the hold, point out the particular berth, place or places where the disease originated and the direction in which it spread. In all such cases it was ascertained that the family occupying the berth had come on board diseased or convalescent from fever, with foul and unwashed clothes.

On the 28th September there were 1,263 in hospital, namely, 473 men, 441 women, and 349 children. On the 1st October, 773, namely 304 men, 253 women and 216 children. On the 2nd October, 715, of whom 690 were laid up with fever and 25 with smallpox. On the 9th, 364, and on the 23rd only two patients, both connected with the quarantine establishment, namely William Lindsay and — Ham. On the 28th October Ham was the only one left, Lindsay having died.

the 29th October the Governor General. Lord Elgin, addressed a letter to the Earl Grey, Colonial Secretary, in which he said, in speaking of the distress and suffering which had been occasioned to the Province of Canada by the immigration of the year, "The subject was forced upon my attention at every point in my progress through the Province, and I regret to say that I found a disposition, even among the most loyal subjects of the Queen, to contrast the visitation to which Canada, as a colony, had been subjected, with the comparative immunity enjoyed by the neighboring States, who are able to take measures to defend themselves.

But the Earl Grey was mute as the sphinx The time had not come for the English Govern-ment to speak, while the Irish were going with a vengeance.

The total number of passenger vessels inspected at the quarantine station in 1847 was upwards of 400 : of these 129 had fever and dysentery among their passengers, 20 had small pox, and 9 both fever and small pox. Five thousand two hundred and eighty two passengers died on ship board, namely 4,092 at sea and 1,190 at quar-

TO BE CONTINUED.



Rev. James P. Stone of Lower Cabot, Vt., formerly of Dallon, N. H.

A Faithful Pastor Is held in high enteem by his people, and his opinion upon temporal as well as spiritual matters is valued greatly. The following is from a clergyman long influential in New England, now spending well earned rest in Cubot, Vt.:

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"We have used Hood's Sarsa parilla in our family for manny years post, with great beautiful to others for their various affiness, almost all of whom have certified to great benefit by its use. We can be provided to great benefit by its use.

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Mr. Geo. T. Clapp, of Eastendale, Mass. says: "I am 82 years of age, and for 30 years have suffered with running acres on one of my legs. A few years ago I had two toos amoutated, physicians saving I was suffer-ing from gangrens and had but

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Hood's Sarsaparilla It is better than gold," "Y cheerfully verify the above statement of Mr. Clapp, whom I have known 30 years." J. M. Howand, Druggist, Eastondale, Mass.

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