

selves, alleged that it was not new to them ; but we all have met with wise men whose brains are too densely packed with wondrous facts to leave any vacant space for the entrance of new ones. On the 11th several other cases occurred, and a continued increase took place until the 19th, when the pestilence seemed to have attained its acme. From Montreal I traced the disease along the travelling routes westward and southward. It appeared at Lachine on the 11th of June, among emigrants on their way to Upper Canada ; on 13th it was at the Cascades—the first case being that of a person newly arrived from Montreal. On the same day a boatman, direct from Montreal, died of cholera at Cornwall. On 16th it was at Prescott—the first cases were among persons just arrived from Montreal. On 19th a boatman from Montreal died of cholera at Brockville. On 20th it was at Kingston. On 21st the first decided cases occurred in York, (now Toronto.) On the 22nd a vessel from Kingston, called the “Massassauga Chief,” loaded with emigrants, arrived in the river below Niagara, but as there were several cases of cholera on board, the vessel was not permitted to come into port. Cholera did not at that time shew itself in Niagara.

Having thus followed the disease far enough westward, we may next endeavour to trace it towards the south. But on account of the obstacles offered to emigrants on the American frontiers, the progress of the disease in this direction was neither so regular nor so rapid as it was in passing up the St. Lawrence. We find it in Laprairie on 12th June, and in St. Johns on 14th. Straggling cases occurred in several places on the frontier ; but whether from the difficulty of ascertaining, or of writing, truth, the accounts of its appearance published were so confused and contradictory as to render it impossible to follow it with any degree of satisfaction. The disease was reported in New York on July 4th ; but some cases were said to have been observed previously—a very usual sort of afterthought with the *nil admirari* variety of observers. The first case in Philadelphia was by some stated to have occurred on 5th July ; but as a second one was not reported until the 14th, we may doubt the reality of that reported on the 5th ; for it would be an anomaly, perhaps never observed in the progress of cholera, that nine days should elapse from its arrival, in a large and populous city,

in the heat of July, without a second case soon following. From New York and Philadelphia the disease passed into various surrounding States, and before the close of the year it had traversed almost the entire face of the northern continent. In Montreal it continued to rage with terrifying virulence till the end of June. I remember one day on which the deaths exceeded 150. In the beginning of July it remitted in violence, but the scene of devastation was truly woful. Hundreds had been left without parents and without sustenance ; death had been in almost every house. No wonder that a beam of hope gladdened our sorrowing hearts, as we flattered ourselves that the fury of the storm was past. But we were doomed to sad disappointment, for before the middle of July the disease seemed to reawake with augmented vigour. Hitherto its victims had been principally from among the poor, and the upper ranks had flattered themselves on a happy exemption from its ravages ; by many of them the disease was spoken of as “*plebeian* in its habits.” They were mistaken—death’s carnival was not yet complete—his devastations now passed beyond the habitations of the poor and the houseless.

A remarkable instance of the transmission of the disease to the northward of Montreal, took place about this time. The settlement of New Glasgow, about 30 miles north west of the city, had imposed upon itself a sanitary cordon, and none of its residents ventured from home, until about the close of July, when a man named Young made the venture. On returning to his home he had much to tell of his city observances, and among his details he related the fact, that in the inn in which he lodged, he saw and rubbed a patient who was dying of the cholera, and he “was not a bit afraid of it.” Next day this brave man himself died of the disease. Two or three neighbours buried him quietly in his own garden. No other case in the settlement followed,—so much for prompt isolation.

After the beginning of September but few cases occurred in Montreal, yet one or two appeared so late as the end of October, and it was a somewhat strange fact that among the latest deaths was that of the undertaker who had confined and conveyed to the graveyard nearly all the victims belonging to the protestant denominations. The apothecary and the matron of the General Hospital were both