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Sacramento Transcript, Volume 2, Number 17, 13 November 1850 — The Late Epidemic. [ARTICLE]

The Late Epidemic.

Now that the late epidemic which since the 20th of October ult., has stricken down hundreds of our citizens, is passing away, it is proper to take a calm review of its effects. The full reports of mortality which have from day to day been published, enable us to speak understandingly on the subject.

When the cholera broke out (the 20th of Oct.,) our city was in the most prosperous condition. Business was brisk. Health and cheerfulness were almost universal. The purity of our climate and the remarkable freedom from mortality that had prevailed since early spring had lulled everyone into perfect security. During the summer few could complain of bodily afflictions, save the worn down immigrant just in from the plains. In our fancied security a heedlessness of the laws of health had become as universal as was health itself. The back yards to our numerous restaurants, hotels, stables and markets were strewn with the filth that had been accumulating since the first blow was struck to rear our city. Behind large groceries might be seen piles of fish barrels, meat casks, hoops, salt and all the filth that would naturally accumulate from the refuse matter of thousands of barrels of salted provisions which had been opened and retailed to our citizens,

been opened and retained to our citizens, and to the tens of thousands of miners who purchased their supplies from us. Casks of spoiled meat, cheeses, &c., were emptied in the suburbs of the city and left to infect the atmosphere for miles around. Neither were the streets free from spoiled vegetables and matter wasting by the slow process of decomposition. Large numbers of men might be seen every night sleeping in the open air on the ground or upon boxes of merchandise. This portion of our citizens, as a general thing, paid little attention either to cleanliness or the wholesome-ness of their diet. Strange to say, while this state of things continued through the summer, the number of deaths in our populous city seldom exceeded ten or twelve

in a week. As a general thing, these deaths were the result of exposure, intemperance or over-exertion.

But no Board of Health was in existence to give the alarm, and a day of retribution was at hand. We were not deserving of such security. In our recklessness we were preparing the way for the triumph of the fell destroyer; and on the 20th day of Oct. the cholera in its most virulent form made its appearance in our midst. For a day or two its presence was disputed, but the mortality increased in five days to such an extent that it was impossible for the most stubborn not to be convinced of its presence. By Oct. 29th, when our city scarcely contained a population of 10,000, the mortality had reached the alarming height of from thirty to forty per day. Then it was that the panic spread abroad. Crowds flocked by every road from the city. The steam-

boats left the levee crowded with passengers. From one point alone,—the Horse Market on K street, men left for upwards of a week at the rate of a hundred a day. Thus the city was soon deserted. Business was suspended. Nearly all the large saloons closed, and there could not have been at one time more than 3,000 people in Sacramento. Many of the fittest subjects for cholera, however, could not leave;—those of abandoned habits, the newly arrived immigrant, the Sandwich Islander, the poor laborer but just arrived, the unclean and low lived, always to be found in cities, could not escape. Hence although large numbers left, the mortality did not abate in proportion.

But the municipal authorities went to work, and after unnecessary delay, the city was finally put in a tolerably clean condition. A reasonable time after health began to return; and we now look upon the epidemic as having passed.

The blow has been sudden, but awful.—

We cannot but think that in the last twenty-five days our population have been decimated. Our cemeteries look like newly ploughed fields. Our citizens are still clad in the habiliments of mourning. But we are happy to announce that a sense of security begins to manifest itself. People are returning to Sacramento, and business again evinces activity.

By reference to the list of deaths, it will be seen that the mortality gradually increased from the 20th of October to the 31st, when it reached its maximum. From that time there were about an equal number of

time, there were about an equal number of deaths up to Nov. 6, when the list dropped from thirty one to twenty four. From that time to this, a gradual diminution has taken place; and we trust in a few days we shall not have a single case to report.

WELL MERITED.—No act of the Common Council in this city, has given greater satisfaction, than the election of Mr. Hardenburgh to the Presidency of that body. That gentleman's course since his connection with our municipal government has been straightforward, independent, and above suspicion of sinister motives. Mr. Hardenburgh is a positive man—you know exactly where to find him—and yet so unobtrusive has been his conduct, so free from all attempt to make any display, that he was not the man to set himself up among the foremost. His labors have not all been in the Council Chamber. But like a devoted public servant, he has constantly studied the necessities of our growing city. If any one wished information on any subject connected with the city's affairs, Mr. Hardenburgh was the man to inform him. When public improvements have been going on, he has taken the responsibility of seeing that every thing is properly done. When his individual interests were involved, the closest scrutiny into his acts could not detect a selfish motive. He has done his duty nobly. If the gratitude and confidence of a whole community are worth any thing he certainly has that much already towards reward for his services. It is a pleasure to elevate one to a post of power, who by his acts has proved himself worthy. We trust that as affairs in this country become more settled

affairs in this country become more settled, all offices of high trust and honor will be bestowed upon men who have proved themselves worthy of confidence, by the faithful discharge of public duties.

ALL GONE.—There is a singular and lamentable history connected with the bark Abby Baker, of Yarmouth, Me., now lying at our levee. She was commanded by Capt. Timothy Pratt. His wife and family were also on board with him. Capt. Pratt died a short time before the arrival of the bark at San Francisco. Augustus Pratt, his son, who had been acting as mate, then took charge and brought the bark into the Bay, and up to Sacramento. On the 30th of last month he became one of the unfortunate victims of the cholera. One hour afterwards his brother Enos died. On the 1st instant his brother William died of the same disease. On the 3d a Dutch boy belonging to the ship died. And on the 5th Mrs. Jane Pratt, the wife of Capt. Timothy Pratt died, leaving a little boy nine years of age, who has been kindly taken charge of, and will be sent to the States by the earliest conveyance. Others were taken sick on board the bark, and sent to the hospital, until the vessel was entirely deserted.

The finale of the matter is, that she has fallen into the hands of the Public Administrator.

CHOLERA.—We learn from Algeria that the cholera had ceased at Bona, and had broken out at Biscara, where it attacked dogs, fowls and other animals, with the same violence as human beings. Query—What has caused the mortality among rats

in our city? There is an unusually large number of dead ones lying around our streets.

NOONEY VS MARVIN.—Some time ago the returns we had received, gave Marvin 3335 votes, and Nooney 2615. The returns we have received thus far, give the following result:

Marvin,.....	3364
Nooney,	2910
	454
Marvin's plurality,.....	454

What says the *Alta* now? We reckon we have 'em.

CAUGHT AGAIN.—Blucher Haskel, who was lately lynched and imprisoned for stealing \$5,000 at Nevada City, was yesterday brought before Justice Swift, charged with grand larceny. He entered the house of a German on the corner of 9th and M streets, and rifled a trunk of a gold watch and chain, a bead purse, and some money. On coming out, he was accosted by the lady of the house, who requested him to stop; but he ran, and was finally brought up by a gentleman who presented a pistol at him. He was bound over to the District Court in the sum of \$800, and failing to give bail, was sent on board the prison ship, where we hope the keepers will take especial good care of him.

MURDERS BY INDIANS AT HUMBOLDT BAY.—By the arrival of the brig Colorado, last evening, from Humboldt Bay, we learn that Mr. D. Turner, of Kentucky, while on his way to the mines with a drove of cattle, was attacked by three Mad River Indians about 20 miles from the settlement, and killed. On the 31st of October a party of Elke River Indians attacked Mr. James S.

Elke River Indians attacked Mr. James S. Fryer, at his ranch, and killed him. When discovered, dead, he had nine wounds on his body and five on his head, inflicted by arrows, axes and knives. After murdering Mr. F. they plundered the house of everything. Mr. F. was a native of England, and was only twenty-six years of age. A party of about twenty proceeded from Humboldt and Eureka in the pursuit of the murderers, and had put to death seventeen Indians.—[Courier.