A TALE OF TWO CITIES.

When the yellow pestilence made its appearance in New Orleans and Memphis and Grenada, and the terror-stricken inhabitants fled from their homes in haste to save their lives, and the doors of Cincinnati were closed against them by a rigid quarantine, Louisville, with a courage which must forever reflect credit upon her heroic people, made every refugee welcome, and, with a spirit of self-sacrifice so noble as to win the applause of all who have hearts to feel for the suffering of others, invited them to remain within her limits. Nor did her charity stop here. A hospital was erected and placed in charge of competent physicians, who, with a full corps of nurses, continued, so long as there was a single case of yellow fever brought to the city, to receive and care for their Southern guests. Relief societies were formed, who visited the hospital daily, carrying delicacies to the sick, seeking by every means that the most enlarged philanthropy could suggest to relieve the suffering of the strangers that the terrible scourge had thrown upon her bounty. Meanwhile subscriptions to the fund for the relief of the sick in other cities and towns throughout the South were made, and the money contributed sent to the Howard Association, to be used according to its judgment.

Other cities gave full credit to the humane conduct of the authorities of Louisville, and there was not a dissenting voice raised in the city to protest against it. No cowardly fear of an epidemic in Louisville prevented her citizens from extending a friendly greeting to those whom the calamity of an epidemic at home had compelled to seek the hospitality of a sister city. The warm tide of Southern sympathy flows freely in the veins of Kentuckians, and they were thankful to stand at the threshold of the epidemic and accompany their sympathy with material aid to the plague-stricken cities of the South. For this action she claimed no reward, and asked for no credit from people of the North or South. She simply did her duty, and in doing so it probably never occurred to one of her generous citizens to ask what effect it would have upon her Southern trade. The emergency came upon her suddenly, and with characteristic impulsiveness she grasped the opportunity to render much-needed aid, and declared there should be no quarantine against their Southern brethren who were flying for their lives.

It was reserved for the mercenary spirit of the Cincinnati Enquirer and Commercial to turn the chivalric conduct of Louisville to the advantage of Cincinnati by publishing to the world a lie so flagrant as to arouse the indignation of a portion of her own press, and wring from it a reluctant tribute to the heroic conduct of Louisville. Dr. Minor, Health Officer of Cincinnati, visited Louisville to inquire into the truth of rumors which had been spread either by emissaries of Cincinnati or by one of half a dozen families who had fled from their homes, and was taken through every portion of the city in which the wildest exaggeration had located yellow fever. The result of his visit was that he found three persons who were sick of malignant malarial fever. Only this and nothing more. An agent of the Associated Press named Gordon, actuated by a devilish spirit of perverseness, sent out a dispatch in which he gave a graphic picture of the epidemic in Louisville, founded entirely in his imagination. Reporters for the Cincinnati Enquirer, who only ask for a grain of truth to a whole bushel of falsehood in the manufacture of a sensation, interviewed Dr. Minor and a few panic-stricken people, and obtaining the necessary quantity of information, gave under startling headlines the most heartrending description of the scourge which had visited Louisville. It was nothing to those itemizers that Dr. Minor could only report the existence of a few cases of fever; the necessity of robbing Louisville of any credit, which they feared she had gained in the eyes of Southern people, was too great to allow the opportunity to slip, and in this way the news of an epidemic at Louisville was given to the world, creating no more surprise anywhere than in Louisville itself. A temporary excitement followed, which was at once silenced by Dr. Bell, who declared that yellow fever as an epidemic never had existed, and could not this year exist, in Louisville. The event proved the truth of his prediction. But thirty-four deaths from yellow fever occurred in Louisville during the entire existence of the scourge in Southern cities, all of which were imported cases. During this period about one dozen deaths took place within a radius of four hundred feet from an alley which had been built between Tenth and Eleventh streets, near the Nashville depot. In making excavations for it, several old privy vaults were uncovered, the effluvia from which was the cause of a malignant malarial fever, which would have proved equally fatal if the yellow fever had existed in Memphis or New Orleans.

The people living on Broadway, near the depot, who were daily witnesses of the arrivals of yellow fever patients from the South, naturally referred the deaths which took place near their residences to yellow fever, in which opinion they were in a few cases borne out by their family physicians, who advised them to change their place of residence for a short time. Acting upon this advice, Breadway, between Tenth and Twelfth, was almost entirely deserted. A few families left the city in a state bordering upon panic. As in all similar cases, they magnified the danger from which they fled, and poured into the willing ears of Cincinnati reporters a tale which those enterprising journalists lost no time in working up into a sensation of the most ample dimensions. The large circulation of the two newspapers, which vied with each other in the display of headlines and in the blood-curdling description of the "terrible scenes" in Louisville, scattered the rumor far and wide, and, although the falsity of it was at once made apparent by the Louisville press, the only denial which could be given equal circulation with the statement would have been through the identical journals that had first given publicity to it. This these papers persistently refused to do, although the Cincinnati Gazette promptly contradicted the statement that yellow fever existed in Louisville as an epidemic.

In consideration of the fact that Cincinnati had established a rigid quarantine against persons suffering from yellow fever, and Louisville had not done so, but had met them with open-handed hospitality, the conclusion is inevitable that the attempt to locate an epidemic in the latter city was actuated by a mean spirit of business rivalry.

A temporary lull in business followed. Southern merchants, on their way to Louisville to purchase goods, were deterred from visiting the city, and were obliged, in many cases against their will, to make purchases in other cities, but the effect was transient. In the latter part of October business revived, and by the first of November the volume of business transacted on Main street was larger than it had been for five years before.

THE INEFFECTIVENESS OF QUARANTINES.

If any fact has been more fully demonstrated than another during the period of the plague, it is the ineffectiveness of inland quarantines. Aside from the migratory habits of people in general, and the determination of the average American citizen to exercise his God-given right to go where he pleases, the tramp nuisance offers an insuperable barrier to the effective organization of a quarantine in a city surrounded by land. It is possible that a single individual might establish a quarantine against all the world, if he could exclude the atmosphere and inflate his lungs through disinfectants.

During two months in which the Yellow-Fever Hospital was in operation in Louisville seventy-six patients were admitted to it. Visitors were in daily attendance—not only physicians, but ministers of the Gospel and other citizens. The ladies of the Flower Mission visited it regularly every Thursday, and yet not a single person who visited the hospital contracted the disease. This would appear to be proof positive that something else besides contact with the disease is requisite to import it from one person to another.

Certain atmospheric conditions are favorable to the spread of the disease, and when these phenomena exist quarantines against people or goods from infected districts, even if they could be enforced, are utterly ineffective in preventing the disease. But the quarantine can not be enforced. Notwithstanding the most rigid examination of passengers arriving upon the railroad trains and steamboats outside the limits of Cincinnati, the pest-house in that city had more yellow fever patients than the hospital at Louisville.

Numerous places in the Southern States quarantined against the whole outside world, and allowed no communication with it, but the fever came upon them all the same, either through the atmosphere or by being carried in the systems of refugees, as in Cincinnati. In the former places the disease spread, and in the latter it did not. The Bell theory has been fully vindicated by the result in many places, both North and South, and has proved the necessity of a thorough system of drainage and disinfecting those districts in large towns which are liable to produce disease.

Aside, then, from the unchristian and inhuman character of quarantines, the result of which is a constant cause of reproach against those cities which instituted them, the uselessness of attempting to bar out a pestilence which defies all human barricades has been proven to be so apparent that we doubt if it is ever again attempted in the Mississippi valley.

AT HOLLY SPRINGS.

[From the Courier-Journal.]

No more unwelcome news has been brought to us during the entire course of the pestilence now afflicting the ill-fated South than that which comes from Holly Springs this morning. Col. W. J. L. Holland, editor of the Holly Springs Reporter, and for years the Mississippi correspondent of the Courier-Journal, died at half-past 2 o'clock on Friday morning, a victim of yellow fever. From the breaking out of the fever at Grenada and Holly Spridgs to the hour when he himself was seized, his life was devoted to his fellowmen with a faithfulness and heroism unsurpassed, and his death, occurring as it has in the last days of the great calamity, when there was yet hope that so valuable a life might be spared, illustrates most impressively the relentless character of the pestilence. Indiscriminate havoc has marked its course throughout, and the brave and generous people of Holly Springs have drunk their bitter cup to its dregs. The tone of Col. Holland's dispatches have indicated that he did not expect to escape the fate of scores of his neighbors, but he never flinched before the destroyer. The following telegram is the last one sent by him to this paper:

"Holly Springs, Miss., Oct. 19.—To-day there have been six new cases and one death. Your correspondent happens to be among the new cases, after having struggled with Yellow Jack since the beginning of the epidemic. He desires, through you and in the name of this people, to express the lasting gratitude to our friends in every part of the Union, who have so generously and nobly contributed to us in so many ways. W. J. L. Holland."

AT VICKSBURG.

BURIAL OF LIEUTENANT BENNER.

[Special Dispatch to the Courier-Journal.]

Vicksburg, Oct. 17.—I have just participated in the most solemn and imposing funeral ceremony I ever witnessed here in nearly half a century. We have buried the commander of the National Relief Expedition, Lieutenant Benner sleeps to-night in the National Cemetery, by the side of the majestic waters of the great river. The gallant Custer, fighting to his death in defense of and dying with his brave band of heroes, did not meet death more nobly than did this chivalrous and heroic young officer. He heard the Macedonian cry, and in its incarnation came to our relief. The hero martyr fell in the sacred performance of the highest obligation. We received him and his companions as an abridgment of the nation's sympathy; wept with joy at meeting such tender, noble, manly courage and solicitude. When he sickened we trembled. When he died this morning we all wept in sorrow for so great a loss. The burial brought into procession every moveable article. It was over a mile in length, and thousands thronged the streets to pay their tribute of mourning for the public bereavement. All the military companies, fire companies, orders and societies, colored and white, all the clergy of every denomination, Catholic and Protestant, all the convalescents able to stand, and weeping women and tender young people, turned out to testify their sense of the calamity. The officers of the Howard Association followed the hearse next to Lieut. Hall, and the Mayor and Aldermen of the city accompanied them. The Right Rev. Bishop Adams read the solemn service at the grave as the setting sun was just passing from view, emblematic of our departed brother, and amidst the surrounding masses of real mourners we laid his mortal remains to rest. May his name shine while the stars shine, and good men pay homage at his grave, while these waves of this inland sea glide to distant ocean; and may the magnanimous and philanthropic people who have blessed us in this deepest distress never experience the necessities of our helpless, suffering and desolate condition. We send our sympathies to and offer our prayers for the sorrowing family of the noble dead.

C. K. Marshall.

TWO TESTIMONIALS.

During the yellow fever epidemic two Kentuckians, who had rendered signal service to humanity—the one by using his great influence in allaying excitement in Louisville, and the other by volunteering his services to the plague stricken city of Hickman—were the recipients of gold medals at the hands of their fellow citizens.

THE TESTIMONIAL TO DR. BELL.

The offering of public recognition of merit and worth was a beautiful medal of solid, sterling silver, three inches in diameter. Within a gold wreath is the inscription, in a semi-circle, "*Sanos sospitare Ægrosque sanare.*" In the center is a gold monogram, T. S. B., in bold relief, beneath which are the words, "*Et hominare et facta destimanus.*" On the reverse side, within a gold wreath, is the inscription: "Presented to Dr. T. S. Bell, by the Louisville Industrial Exposition, as a testimonial of professional skill and moral courage, which, by assuring safety, preserved the citizens of Louisville from panic during the yellow fever scourge of 1878."

The medal is a fine example of silversmith work, and was executed by Messrs. Jewell & Beddo, of this city.

THE BLACKBURN TESTIMONIAL.

The medal presented by the Southern refugees to Dr. Blackburn, was made by Mr. F. D. Barnum, who has added to his reputation as a jeweler of excellent taste and judgment by designing and executing this exquisite example of goldsmith work. The medal is shield-shaped pendant from a circular pin, bordered with red gold, upon which is the following inscription:

"1878. Testimonial of Love and Gratitude, from Southern Refugees to Dr. Luke P. Blackburn."

The name is engraved upon a scroll above the shield. The border of the shield is ornamented by engraved lines, and the surface decorated by an exquisitely modeled wreath in green gold, at the base of which is a solitaire diamond. Within the wreath a crown in high relief, set with diamonds, rests upon a halo engraved upon the shield. The pin and medal are of pure, fine gold, and form a beautiful testimonial of the high estimate placed upon the courage and humanity of the brave old man who did not hesitate to risk his life in the performance of a noble duty.

Approximate list of deaths from yellow fever (including imported and supposed cases) since its first appearance this year:

New Orleans	3,977	Rock Springs, Miss	38
Memphis and vic'ity	4,200	Meridian, Miss	71
Vicksburg and vic	1,138	Mississippi, scat'g	217
Grenada & vicinity	327	Chattanooga	151
Holly Springs	314	Nashville, Tenn	11
Port Hudson, La	9	Paris, Tenn	23
Gretna, La	53	Mason, Tenn	25
Carrollton, La	5	Germantown, Tenn	26
Near Pat'rsonville, La	47	Gr'd Junction, Tenn	78
Thibodeaux, La	88	Brownsville, Tenn	139
Tangipahoa, La	43	Collierville, Tenn	44
Morgan City, La	96	Lagrange, Tenn	31
Dry Grove, La	38	Martin, Tenn	40
Delhi, La	30	Somerville, Tenn	47
Delta, La	28	Moscow, Tenn	34
Baton Rouge	196	Williston, Tenn	13
Plaquemine, La	120	Bartlett, Tenn	9
Donaldsonville, La	35	Tennessee, scat'g	46
Labadieville, La	30	Hopefield, Ark	12
Louisiana, scat'g	227	Arkansas, scat'g	13
Greenville, Miss	287	Florence, Ala	44
Pt. Gibson and co	225	Mobile, Ala	58
Canton, Miss	171	Decatur, Ala	47
Bovina, Miss	7	Tuscaloosa, Ala	2
Bay St. Louis, Miss	74	Tuscumbia, Ala	2
Hernando, Miss	59	Key West	37
Water Valley, Miss	64	Hickman, Ky	153
Pass Christian, Miss	20	Louisville	31
Jackson, Miss	73	Bowling Green	23
Terry, Miss	20	Kentucky, scat'g	6
Osyka, Miss., & vic'ty	40	New York	30
Winona, Miss	3	St. Louis	31
Mississippi City	19	Gallipolis and vic	32
Biloxi, Miss	37	Cincinnati	16
Port Eads	10	Pittsburgh	1
Lake, Miss	85	Chicago	1
Belton, Miss	33	Cairo	35
Ocean Springs, Miss	31		
Goodrich L'ng, Miss	42	Total	13,921

Jack Frost having begun work upon the outside of the yellow fever districts, a speedy and entire cessation of the epidemic will of course shortly occur. Then will come the dread summing up of losses, and the melancholy greeting that will meet the refugees homeward bound. While the wheels of business will again begin to move, and the latent vigor of social and commercial life reassert itself, still sadness will long reign over hearthstones, and tears will long be shed for those whose places "will know them no more forever." And hard upon Azrael's flight will come the doctors trooping up with their experiences and conclusions. A devoted band of humanitarians they formed during the reign of death, but it is to be feared their notions will be as conflicting as their lotions were, and but little of practical good in the way of suggesting preventives will be crystalized out of the mass of evidence to be submitted. It is to be earnestly hoped, however, that some will earn a position on the pinnacle "where Fame's proud temple stands afar," by giving the world a decided and rational diagnosis, and an unimpeachable theory of cause and cure.—[Courier-Journal, Oct. 30.

"KISS MY LIPS."

[Memphis Avalanche.]

One of the thousand and one tragic incidents of the great plague happened at Holly Springs a few days since. A beautiful young lady of New Orleans was being forced by her father to marry an old man she could not love. Preferring death to slavery, the young lady ran away and gave her services as nurse to the fever-stricken of Holly Springs. After a few days of devoted attention to the sick she was herself stricken. There was a male nurse for her. There was no female hand to soothe with its gentle touch the fevered brow. But the noble Ridley was there to perform the last sad offices to the dying girl. Toward the last she said to him: "Kiss me." As Ridley kissed her on the cheek she exclaimed: "Kiss my lips," which he did. She then said: "You are the only man I ever kissed; kiss me again." While Ridley was in the act of kissing her she threw her arms tightly around his neck, and instantly expired. God bless the brave hearts.

☞Correspondents would confer a favor upon the advertisers by mentioning that they saw the advertisement in this paper.

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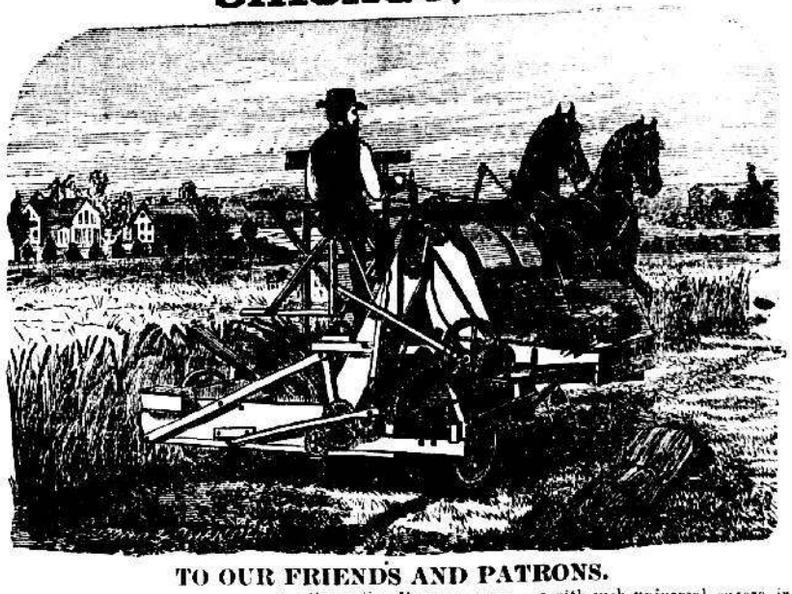

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