

[The following articles have been in type for several weeks; but although old, they are not altogether uninteresting.]

From the New York Evening Post.

SIR—It appears from an article in your paper of last evening, that an enquiry into the causes of the spotted fever is about to take place: no subject of more interest has ever engaged the attention of the Medical profession. If I am correctly informed by several intelligent medical students from the western parts of this state, it is a general opinion among the Physicians there, that the spotted fever is caused by the use of bread or whiskey made of ergot or spurred rye. The evil effects of this unwholesome aliment have long been known on the continent of Europe. In France and in Germany particularly, destructive epidemics have been very distinctly traced to this source.—In the year 1777 Mr. Tesser, one of the members of the Royal Society of Medicine in Paris, was deputed to travel through the province of Sologne, in order to acquire information on this subject. It appears from his enquiries, that the ergot is found in other plants beside rye, viz. barley, oats and wheat, but in smaller quantity. Schneider attributed the formation of ergot to a viscous substance that penetrated the grain with the dew, and then occasioned a sort of fermentation, by which a fungus shot forth that hardened into ergot. Other physicians, and especially Tillet, finding small insects in the diseased grains, attributed to them the formation of ergot, and all are agreed that this disease of the grain was greatly favoured by fertility, a moist and sterile soil, and wet seasons.

In order to prevent the disease in the grain, Dr. Read, Physician of the Military Hospital of Metz, advises that all the diseased stalks should be carefully gleaned after the harvest and burned, and that no grain should be raised from seed which is not perfectly healthy, or if this cannot be done, that the grain be washed in lime-water, in order to destroy any insects that may be lodged in it. In 1596, the Faculty of Medicine of Marbourg, published a treatise on a convulsive epidemic, which they declared arose from the use of ergot. Many patients remained stupid until death; those who escaped, recovered imperfectly, and were particularly ill during the months of January and February. The disease appeared contagious, and affected armies, many of whom died in a state of lethargy.—In 1698, throughout several cantons of Germany, many persons were seized with a kind of intoxication, head ache, vertigo, constant nausea, and considerable swelling of the face, symptoms which were attributed to the use of bread made of ergoty grain. The disease was termed ergotism.—About the beginning of the last century, a convulsive epidemic ravaged several cantons of Saxony and Sweden. At one of the seasons in which it prevailed with the greatest violence, the rye contained one third of ergot. The villages situated in marshy ground fared worst, and there was comparatively little sickness in large towns. The patients were attacked with spasms, convulsions, and inexpressible pain, such as would be produced by attempts to dislocate a bone, which came on by paroxysms; in the intervals, they could attend to their business. After the paroxysm, some had a voracious appetite, which led to acts of intemperance that were quickly fatal; others fell into a lethargy, which, if it did not prove fatal, was succeeded by vertigo, extreme weakness and stiffness in the limbs. On dissection, blood was found extravasated on the chest, and there were traces of inflammation of the lungs; the heart was remarkably flaccid, and its ventricles empty; the blood-vessels appeared to be filled with bile; some gangrenous spots were seen on the liver and spleen. The testimony of Drs. Thuillier and Dodart sufficiently establishes the fact, that the ergot is capable of producing malignant typhus fever and gangrene of the extremities. Upon the whole, there can be no doubt that it is a very deleterious substance, and that its effects upon the human system are modified by various circumstances, which perhaps the present state of our knowledge does not permit us to appreciate. It is an object of interesting enquiry how far the powers of ergot may be modified by distillation and combination with alcoholic liquors, and whether this, or any other cause, sufficiently explain why the use of ergot in Europe produces a convulsive epidemic terminating in typhus, and, in other instances, the dry gangrene described by Baron Boyer, while in America it causes a disease in many respects unlike either.

It is understood that the Medical Institution of this city are about to offer a prize for the best dissertation on this subject. S.

From the Potsdam Gazette of February 24.
Murder and Robbery!—For the following account of Murder, heard beyond description, we are indebted to Caleb Hough, Es-

quire, of this village, the Coroner who took the inquisition of the dead bodies, and Dr. M'Chefney, who was one of the Jurors.—Their knowledge is derived from their examination of the bodies—the confession of the murderer, and the evidence adduced before the jury. On Sunday the 18th instant, Mr Michael Scarborough, of Louisville, crossed the St. Lawrence river to Cornwall, whence he was to proceed on Monday to Montreal—leaving at home, his wife aged twenty four years—a lovely girl of two years an infant of three months, and Jean Baptiste Macue a French servant boy of fourteen years old. About 12 o'clock on the same day, Jean Baptiste Grateau, a little, black looking Canadian Frenchman, left Massena village under pretence of going to Quebec, but went immediately to Mr. Scarborough's house, about two miles) where he staid fixing his place of operations for the night; from the house he went to the woods—staid till dark, went into the barn of Mr. Scarborough, slept till 4 or 5 o'clock in the morning—went to the house—entered a back door into an entry way—passed into a cellar—ate a harty breakfast—came up—took an axe from the entry way—went into a large room where the servant boy was sleeping by a stove—warmed himself—went into the adjoining room where Mrs. S. with the infant on her arm and little girl by her side, were asleep—stood several minutes, looking at Mrs. S. and then at the trunk which contained the cash—at length he determined, for his own security, to add murder to robbery.—He levelled the axe twice at the neck of Mrs. S. which severed the bone and arteris and almost severed the head from the body—She died without a struggle. The head of the axe was let into the infant's head from the forehead to the crown—the child lived about four hours. The little girl has three marks of the axe on her head and one on her shoulder—her head is much swollen—it is not yet ascertained whether the skull is fractured—some hopes of her recovery.

From the bedroom he returned to the servant boy, gave him a blow and cut his throat (he was brother to the murderer's wife) then returned to the bedroom, opened a trunk took out a handkerchief containing twenty-two dollars and eighty six cents in specie—he expected five hundred dollars. A quantity of gold remained in the trunk undisturbed. On Monday morning, Mr. Field, of Massena, went to the house on an errand and made this discovery—he immediately gave the alarm, the first who arrived were the father, mother, and brother of the servant boy. It snowed during the night—Mr. Orvis, and other gentlemen of Massena, on horseback, took the track of the murderer and pursued him about twelve miles, when they came up and took him, within two miles of St. Regis village.—He asserted his innocence, while his blood stained hands and clothes declared his guilt, until brought into the room where the bodies were, when he confessed the whole; and requested that his priest (a Catholic) might be sent for to pardon him.

He is now in the county gaol, well secured in Irons. He is from St. Anne, Lower Canada, (as he says) where his father, brother, and sister live.

Mr. S. was immediately informed of the situation of his family and returned. It is not in the power of language to describe his distress, it would be mockery to attempt it.

DIED,

At his residence near Oneida Castle, on Monday the 11th ult. SKENANDON, the celebrated Oneida Chief, aged 110 years.

In his youth he was a brave and intrepid warrior, and in his riper years one of the ablest counsellors among the North American tribes. He possessed a strong and vigorous mind, and though terrible as the tornado in war, he was bland and mild as the zephyr in peace. With the cunning of the fox, the hungry perseverance of the wolf, and the agility of the mountain cat, he watched and repelled Canadian invasions. His vigilance once preserved from massacre the inhabitants of the infant settlement of Germanflats. His influence brought his tribe to our assistance in the war of the Revolution. The number of the living, and the dead that have been saved from the tomahawk and scaling knife by his friendly aid is not known; but individuals and villages have expressed gratitude for his benevolent interpositions, and among the Indian tribes he was distinguished by the appellation of the "White man's friend."

Although he could speak but little English, and in his extreme old age was blind yet his company was sought. In conversation he was highly decorous, evincing that he had profited by seeing civilized and polished society, and by mingling with good company in his better days.

To a friend who called on him a short time since, he thus expressed himself by an interpreter:

"I am an aged hemlock: the winds of an hundred winters has whistled through my branches; I am dead at the top. The generation to which I belonged have run away and left me; why I live the Great good Spirit only knows. Pray to my Jesus, that

I may have the patience to wait for my appointed time to die."

From a London Paper.

The following are some further particulars respecting the last moments of Marshal Ney:—When the judgment was announced to him, he said, "it would have been more military to have said, you are to bite the dust." At the execution, he endeavoured to protest against the iniquity of the sentence, and appealed to God and posterity.—The officer commanding the veterans attempting to give the word, appeared struck dumb. L'Espinois (the commander of the military division) then said, "officer, if you cannot command, I will;" the latter remaining silent, the Marshal himself said, "soldiers, do your duty," upon which the platoon ordered for the purpose, fired at random; only five out of sixteen balls fired, struck the Marshal, who fell upon his knees and died instantly.—The officer recovering himself, said, "there is still a platoon, let them shoot me also." The officer is put under an arrest. Marshal Ney was yesterday buried at the cemetery of La Chaise. Madame Ney was accompanied to the Thuilleries by her four children and sister; she remained in the Salon de la paix some time before the Duc de Duas came to inform her that she could not be received by the King, and leading her down the grand staircase, acquainted her with the mournful execution; she fainted, and with difficulty removed to her carriage, amidst the cries of her children and the lamentations of the spectators of the distressing scene.—She had several times endeavoured to see the Duchesse d'Angouleme, near whose person she had been brought up when a child; the Duchesse, however, as well as the Princes, constantly refused to see her.

Madame Anguie, Madame Ney's mother, was in the service of Marie Antoinette, her grief at whose death was so severe, that in a moment of distraction she threw herself out of a window, and died upon the spot.

When the titles of Ney were enumerated in his sentence, he observed, "What is the use of all this? Now Michel Ney; presently a handful of dust—that's all!"

BONAPARTE.

A letter from St. Helena says—"Bonaparte is at present most narrowly watched, and on parole not to go beyond the limits of the little garden, &c. surrounding the cottage he inhabits. He has always about his person an officer, and at least two or three serjents. Notwithstanding all this, he is never heard to complain, but seems perfectly calm, and resigned to his fate. He still keeps up his dignity with those about him, and they never approach him covered, nor do they wear their hats in his presence. I remarked, the day I dined with the Admiral, during our outward bound passage, that he had a plate of each dish on the table put before him by his servant, and some he partook of, others was removed without his eating any. The same ceremony was observed in handing round wine; a glass of each sort on a salver was occasionally presented, and, if inclined, he drank one; if not, the salver was removed without his speaking. He always preserved a great degree of flatulency. He never asked how he was to be disposed of, and was perfectly passive in every transaction."

LONDON, Dec. 9.

The sailors of the Northumberland obliged Bonaparte to pay the tribute to Neptune on passing the line for the first time, as well as all the persons of his suite. Bonaparte submitted to the ceremony with a very good grace and paid 100 Napoleons to old Neptune.

Paris, Dec 19 — A letter from Brussels announces that on the 14th there arrived from Paris a convoy of precious effects belonging to the king of Spain, which Joseph brought away at the time of his retreat.—The value of them is incalculable. They are to be conveyed to Antwerp, guarded by a detachment of English cavalry, where they will be embarked for Spain.

The King of Spain has just created two new military orders—that of St. Ferdinand and St. Hermenegilde; and a third order of Knighthood, under the name of "Royal American Order of Isabella the Catholic."

All the British troops have now withdrawn from Paris. On Saturday last, at five in the morning, Colonel K'Kinnon, commanding the rear guard, delivered up the heights of Montmartre to the French troops. This was the last post delivered up.

From the Troy Post of Feb. 6.

The Duke of Wellington has received from Louis XVIII, the order of the Condon Bleu. His Majesty also presented his Grace with the estate of Groisbois, and conferred on him the title of Duc de Branois. It is said Marshal Massena has been arrested at the frontiers: his health is so bad that his life is despaired of.

For the KINGSTON GAZETTE.

MR. MILES, SIR,

It is a subject of deep regret to many that the executive or magistracy should show such a sluggishness in enforcing the laws of the Province, it is particularly to be deplored so far as those laws relate to persons calling themselves doctors, not only our fortunes but our lives are in the hands of those despicable Quacks. How does it happen that an act of the session of 1815 is not acted upon? is it because that act is unwise? or is it because the executive does not think it of sufficient importance to put it in operation? if the first why not expunge it from the laws of the province? if the latter, what is the use of a house of assembly at all.

Perhaps, Mr. Editor, you and other respectable gentlemen living in town, who have access to, and knowledge to value the merits of those praising medicine, may not feel so much as I do the miserable situation of the country, but, sir, if the health of the subject is not a matter of sufficient importance to rouse the morbid sensibility of those whose duty it is to administer the laws, I should imagine that in a political point of view it would be a matter of great importance to look after those quack spies who are daily inundating the province, those men (most brutal, generally speaking, in their manners, and in their conduct immoral in the highest degree,) go from house to house like pedlars, dealing out their poisonous pills and herbs, and holding out to the gaping ignorant, the advantages of a republican government. But to give you an instance of the contemptible conduct of one of those animals nearer yourself. During the last session of the peace I had occasion to be in Kingston, and although I lodged in a private house I had occasion to call one morning at a tavern: while speaking to the landlady in the bar, in comes a doctor and called for a gill of brandy.—He drank it—in the course of which he put a great many questions to her about the health of her customers, and finally said he would leave some fever powders, as it was likely the country people would be getting drunk (as he termed it,) and would require medicine. The lady thanked him, and said, if he wanted any medical aid she knew where to send for it.

To conclude, Mr. Editor, the consequences of the present system will be in the first place, to prevent native merit entering into the profession; secondly, those few respectable and regularly educated men whom we have amongst us will either leave the province or get a miserable subsistence if they remain; and lastly, though not the least, the province will be in some degree revolutionized by those emissaries of a licentious republic.

VERITAS.

Adolphustown, May 14, 1816.

LONDON, March 9.

British ships in the Mediterranean.—We have authority for asserting that the important subject of the abuses of the British flag, by being assumed by all descriptions of foreign vessels, has been taken up by government with a promptitude much to its honor, and with a spirit which will be efficacious in its results.

Orders have been sent of a most preemptory nature to the British Consuls and Vice Consuls in all the ports within the Straights of Gibraltar that no vessels are to be considered entitled to the British Mediterranean passes, except such as are actually built in the United Kingdom, or in his Majesty's foreign governments, or which actually belongs to the town of Gibraltar. And that the consuls and vice consuls should also discontinue the indiscriminate grant of British protections to foreign vessels of all descriptions.

We cannot forbear testifying our high satisfaction at this decisive step; It is of British stamp, and does the government much honor. This will authorize the british admiral on that station to oblige every vessel which has not a British Mediterranean pass of a date posterior to the present, to strike the flag, Malta alone, within the Straights, will be entitled to the privilege; and we trust that his excellency general Maitland, the Governor of that Island, will be sufficiently a friend to his country, to see with rigid eyes that none but vessels really owned by native Maltese, or at least by constant residents in Malta, shall ever have a pass or hoist the British Union.

The Paris paper contains the following from Madrid, dated Feb. 17;—"All the subjects of his Catholic Majesty are invited to arm against the corsairs of the Insurgents of America.

The depredations of the Barbary corsairs along the coast of Italy continue. They lately made a descent with a force of 500 men at Morfeno, plundered the churches and houses, and carried off a great number of captives.