

There is every reason to believe this consolidated chalky substance to be the remains of skeletons buried perhaps two hundred centuries ago, and converted by time and the operations of the elements into their present state. Many tokens remain on both sides of the Mississippi of their being in ancient ages as well cultivated and as thickly inhabited as the country on the Danube or the Rhine; which fully proves, that the literati have been too hasty in denominating America a new world, or an original present to the European, from the hands of rude nature.

A copper mine was opened some years since, farther down the Mississippi, and to the great surprize of the labourers, a large collection of the mining tools were found several fathoms below the superficies of the earth. Another person in digging for a well, discovered a furnace of brick wall five fathoms below the present surface; and in this furnace were found a quantity of coals and firebrands, which for aught we know might have been kindled in the days of Moses or Lycurgus.

Not long since at a spot in the Ohio, when the bank had been washed by the undermining of the water, a stone dropped out of the hardest kind of black marble, about seven pounds in weight, having twelve equal surfaces, each surface being mathematically equilateral and equiangular five sided figures; this does not appear to be a *lusus nature*, but a work of exquisite art, the offspring of human ingenuity.

Near the falls of the Mississippi there is a salt spring in the bed of the river, which has been enclosed with stone work of unknown antiquity, to keep out the fresh water. In times of freshes, however, the river overflows the stone-work and mixes with the brine, so that it does not afford salt hereabouts until the river is considerably fallen.

In several places, circular fortifications have been discovered in the same country, these are constantly enclosed with deep ditches and fenced with a breast work. From these and many other similar remains of antiquity, one would be inclined to think the world much older than had been commonly imagined. Several tribes on the great river above-mentioned, date their existence for more than seventy thousand moons back, and the Indians of the western world go infinitely farther back into the depths of time, though both relate many events of these distant periods, that are evidently mixed with fable.

Much information on this interesting subject may be derived from Lewis and Clarke's Tour to the Pacific Ocean across the continent of America, undertaken in 1808, by order of the American Government.

The speculative philosopher, and the scientific antiquarian who glories in deep and laborious researches into the depths of time, will here find an ample field for the display of talent, and materials for a new hypothesis. At least I hope the extract I have ventured to obtrude on your notice may be found interesting to your numerous readers.

Dinapore, Oct. 12, 1819.

E. J.

Addenda.

In the year 1768, an Inscription was discovered on a rock, near the sea coast at Dighton in Massachusetts. It was then considered to be the rude work of the Indians of the country, but it has since been affirmed to be in oriental characters, and the following remarks on this singular antiquity may deserve a place here:

"Many attempts have been made to decypher the inscription; the characters are partly alphabetical partly hieroglyphical. We have a very accurate copy of it before us—and have made several attempts at interpretation and decyphering. The letters are Oriental, partaking of the characteristic forms of the Saceris and the Talie, and written from right to left; but the story, for it appears to be an historical record, begins on the left, and proceeds to the right, there being, apparently three acts, referring to the past, the present, and the future, and signifying whence the authors of the inscription came, their number and intercourse with the natives, and their intention to return whence they came; it is not possible to transcribe it without a drawing, but the apparent subject is, that the inscription was of persons, by sea from the eastward who, on landing, paid their first devotions to the divinity of the country whence they came, that is Boodh, or the genius of fecundity; also, a symbol of Minerva and Isis. The head of a hawk indicates infinite wisdom, and also the north wind, which conducted them to the spot; there are some other figures and letters, which admit of many interpretations.

"The second scene, which is in the then present, is more diffused, and the figures, dispersed; there is a vessel with its masts, flags, and long rudder, as in the oriental vessels at this day—there is a figure of a horse, which is the well known symbol of Carthage. There is a human figure, or bust, upon the breast of which is a Trident, emblematic of Neptune, and also of the Oriental Trinity, of the good and evil, and of the mediatory powers, the same as Vishenou, Sieb, and Brama, which under one or another name, have been found in the religions of all nations.

"The subject generally appears to be intended to commemorate the arrival of a people there from the ocean and the east, and who, having had intercourse with the natives, had resolved to return, and had written thus on that rock, to commemorate that event: the characters indicate an oriental origin; but whether from Phoenicia or Carthage, or elsewhere, is not ascertainable; that it is of great antiquity; that it is a record of some kind, cannot be a moment doubted. Though the hieroglyphics are many and crowded, yet there is a method in it which renders it beyond doubt, intended to communicate facts, and the oriental characters are to be found in all the eastern alphabets."

Medical Facts and Opinions.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

I beg leave to return my cordial acknowledgements to CHIRURUS LONDINENSIS, for the liberal and professional manner in which he notices my medical opinions, and to assure him, that I feel great satisfaction in complying with the request, as far as the limits of this communication will permit, with which he has honoured me.

1st. In the production of the prevailing distemper; I deny the presence of any state of predisposition being necessary to account for the occurrence of the disease.

2d. I deny the agency of marsh miasmata, conditions of atmosphere, variations of temperature, exposure to the sun, bile, &c. to claim any share whatever, in its production; and maintain, that its origin, symptoms, and progress are totally independent of, and uninfluenced by, such causes.

3d. I believe Rice, generally speaking, and even of the best kind, to be in nutritious food, that is, I imagine the very best description of Rice to be inferior in point of the nutritious principle to Wheat, and some other farinaceous seeds; and that if the proportion of nutriment in the latter is as eight, that afforded by the former (Rice) is not more than one. Hence, no person is enabled, for any length of time, to live upon Rice solely, without its exhibiting symptoms of disease, as Beribers, &c.

4th. But the Ouse Rice of Bengal, or the crop cut immediately subsequent to the rains, and especially if the preceding season has been remarkable, as was the case in 1817, (for an immoderate fall of rain I conceive to be highly noxious,) and its use as food to be followed by the presence of various disorders, all dependent upon one proximate cause, viz. different degrees of erythematic inflammation excited within the stomach and intestines.

5th. This morbid state appears to be generated in great measure from the operation of an acrid chemical agent, contained in the grain, and which seems to partake of an oleaginous nature, in consequence of the feed itself constantly omitted from this kind of Rice, and its oily appearance.

6th. Disease and even Death have been asserted to follow only one meal of this kind of Rice. My own experience, however, seems to prove, that these consequences succeed to repeated meals composed of this deleterious food.

7th. When the inflammation, excited in the extremities of the visceral nerves, takes place in the slightest degree, and proceeds slowly, the disease is manifested by shivering, head-ache, and other symptoms of pure Intermittent Fever, and this I nominate the first stage of Morbus Oryzeus, when the inflammation is present to greater degree, and a determination of blood takes place in the liver, so as to produce an increased secretion of bile, the existence of the inflammation within the stomach and bowels is then known by the symptoms indicating a low, nervous, jungle, yellow or Typhus Fever, as accidental circumstances happen to combine at the moment, and this I term the second stage of Morbus Oryzeus or degree of intensity in which the disease occurs. But when the inflammation proceeds to its fullest extent, the distemper is then full formed Morbus Oryzeus, Cholera Morbus, or Mort de Chien, destroying the patient with the rapidity of poison.

8th. These different forms of disease, arising from the employment of noxious Rice, I prove by cases, contained in my Work upon this subject which has been forwarded to the Printer, and will I hope appear in the course of two or three months, to have been exhibited in the course of the malady that has been, and still is ravaging British India.

9th. These diseases annually appear in Bengal, upon the Ouse harvest being cut, and have erroneously been termed, the Epidemias of the season, depending upon marsh miasmata, predisposing causes &c.

10th. Bengal Ouse Rice, and of the most deleterious kind, was disseminated over all India, towards the close of 1817, and during the year 1818. A specimen, procured at Allahabad, is herewith transmitted. Billions of maunds of the same poison have been sold as food throughout the country; hence the general prevalence of the pestilence.

11th. The following Copy of a Note, which I lately received from a friend, affords strong confirmation to the facts contained in the valuable Letter of Lieutenant Sleeman.

DEAR TYTLER,

"Your Letters respecting the Cholera Morbus, bring a circumstance to my recollection which took place at the period that fatal disease committed such ravages amongst the Bearers and Camp-followers of the Centre Division of the Grand Army. It is as follows, A Servant of mine, a Carpenter, got leave to go to his village for the space of a month, but he came back in a few days with a report, that fifty people had died in the village, and all from eating Rice lately arrived in Boats from Bengal, which had been sold at a cheap rate. The man was in consequence so much prejudiced against Rice, that he could not bear the sight of it. This village was situated near the Bank of the river Goomtee."

Trusting that these circumstances may in some degree tend to attract the attention of your Correspondent still further to this important subject,

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Allahabad, Oct. 20, 1819.

R. TYTLER, M. D.