

the extent of their power by voluntary contributions of such necessities as they had, to be dispensed by the Overseers of the Poor, under a hope that the disease might decline, and finally in a year or two disappear. Upon this recommendation they have acted up to this present period; no public grant or local assessment having ever been applied towards the relief of these people. The hope that the distemper would decline, however, has been disappointed. In my subsequent visits to that part of my Bailiwick, I have been kept advised that the disease was spreading, and the fears of the people in the neighbourhood for the safety of their families, increasing—that relief could no longer be afforded to the extent the afflicted required—and that the intercourse unavoidably maintained between the diseased and their families, through the want of a separate building or Hospital for their accommodation, has a tendency to introduce the distemper into all the houses in the Settlement. Under these circumstances, Mr. Young, the principal Merchant in Tracadie, (with others from the vicinity,) being at Bathurst, attending the Court as a Grand Juror, and having consulted me again on the subject, I advised them to lay the case before the Grand Jury, as one that now involved the safety of the public health, not only in this County, but throughout the adjoining Counties; they did so, and the presentment of the Grand Jury was forwarded to the Executive.

The above statement comprehends all the steps that have been taken in reference to this disease in this County; but the distemper having found its way over the Line into Northumberland, the Board of Health of that County directed a Medical Gentleman to visit the place and report on the nature of the disease, &c., which report was also forwarded to the Executive.

As further information was applied for by the Government, I was again requested to aid the parties in furnishing it, for which purpose I proceeded to Tracadie a few days since, and in company with Mr. Robinson, (the only resident Justice of the Peace,) Mr. Young, Merchant, and Mr. T. S. Baldwin, Surgeon, I visited two of the principal sufferers and collected the information contained in the following lists of deaths and present cases, and which may be safely relied on as authentic, I having discarded every thing offered which appeared to me not firmly established.

#### *Introduction of, and Deaths by Leprosy in Tracadie.*

1st Case.—The first known case was that of Ursuline Landry, who came from Caraquet, and died at Tracadie, about the year 1824.

2nd.—Joseph Benoit, belonged to Tracadie, husband of the above, died about 1829 or 1830.

3rd.—Isabel Landry, sister to the first victim, died about 1832 or 1833.

From the foregoing, all the later cases can be traced.

4th.—Francis Sonier, a young healthy man previous to his being employed to assist in carrying the coffin of the first victim to the grave: it was in the heat of Summer; matter, it is said, oozed from the coffin, and stained his shirt at the shoulder; in a few weeks afterwards he showed symptoms of the malady, and lingered three or four years before he died.

5th.—Ede Sonier, sister of number four, died about the year 1838, in a horrid condition; received no medical advice or assistance; her husband and children were her only attendants till her death; she lingered four to five years; before her death the joints of her fingers had rotted off, and her eyes sloughed out.

6th.—Cyrie Austin, caught the disease, it is supposed, from sleeping with number four, before the disease was manifest: number six first became sensible of his condition while working in a lumbering camp; he immediately came out to his friends, and never worked afterwards; he lingered five to six years, and also died in a most miserable condition; he was a young man about 22 or 23 years.

7th.—John Robichaud, also a companion of number four, and likewise it is supposed caught the infection from sleeping with his friend. This unfortunate had no friends or relatives to succour him, and he was obliged to be supported altogether by the Parish; that is, by voluntary contributions of clothes, food, &c. dispensed generally by the Overseers of the Poor. A log enclosure was erected for the use of this wretch a short distance back from the River, and his food, fuel, &c. was daily taken to the door; he lingered altogether about four or five years, and two years after his consignment to the hut. This individual it is supposed died insane, and was the only instance of the kind: his insanity was judged from the appearance of the turf and soil about his hut on the morning he was found dead, they having been evidently rooted up in various places as if by the nails and fingers of a maniac, and blood was sprinkled about; the appearance of what remained of his hands also confirmed the impression. This miserable being was strictly shunned by all the inhabitants before his death, and the Overseers of the Poor, as a matter of duty, had to convey his food, &c. to him themselves.

No inquest was held on this individual case, or indeed any of the preceding ones, and the only reason assigned by Mr. Robinson, the resident Justice of the Peace, is, that he considered it quite unnecessary to burthen the County with expense of inquests which could cause no possible good; the parties died as it were under the eyes of the whole settlement, and their death was as certain to occur within the four or five years after they caught the malady, as the sun to shine. It was not a *casualty*, there was no *mystery* or con-

cealment connected with it, and he would as soon think of calling an inquest on the body of a person who died by common fever, or any of the other maladies incident to humanity, as he would on this.

#### *Present Cases of Leprosy in Tracadie.*

	AGE.		AGE.
1. Mary Clair Brased,	29	7. Joseph Savoy,	15
2. Charlotte Benoit,	14	8. Thomas Commeau,	35
3. Fabian Guthro,	30	9. Oliver Robichaud,	25
4. Julian Guthro,	28	10. *Julian Robichaud,	
5. Margaret Robichaud,	30	11. *Tranquile Robichaud,	18
6. Almon Savoy,	20	12. *Francis Robichaud,	11

Anastasia Legere, aged 26, Sister to Mary Clair Brased.

\* Brothers in Law to No. 5, List of Deaths.

This List does not contain the cases on the other side of the dividing line in Northumberland, although the presentment included them. It is supposed there are ten or twelve additional cases there; but the whole are comprised within a circuit of twenty miles.

#### THE DISEASE.

The Disease, I believe, has been pronounced by the Medical men who visited Tracadie, as the Leprosy of the thirteenth or fourteenth century, it certainly is a novel distemper in this Province. The victims linger, apparently, from three to six years; they seem to retain all their faculties in a degree, except sight; their eyes slough out, and their fingers rot off before death. The most remarkable feature in their appearance to an observer, is the distortion of the features and hands by the contraction of the muscles, which together with a bluish colour of the skin, gives to the sufferers a horrid aspect. They retain their appetite to the last.

A Lazaretto or Hospital for their separate confinement is evidently required, as a step towards stopping the ravages of this disease: and one more loathsome or revolting in its aspect has never visited New Brunswick. The next sanitary regulation I would suggest, is one to compel the poorer classes of the inhabitants of Tracadie, to scour, cleanse and purify their houses; for those miserable dwellings in which I visited the Lepers, were in a condition, it appeared to me, calculated to create and perpetuate all manner of diseases; the stench arising from the sick, and the filth, and the heat of the stoves, was beyond more than ten minutes endurance.

Whatever may be the technical character of this disease, I cannot but think that the introduction of cleanliness and more generous food in Tracadie and its vicinity, would materially contribute to the health of the inhabitants.

I am, Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

HENRY W. BALDWIN.

To the Clerk of the Peace, Bathurst, Gloucester.

Chatham, 5th April, 1844.

To His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor Sir WILLIAM MAC-BEAN GEORGE COLEBROOKE, &c. &c. &c.

May it please Your Excellency,—

In obedience to the instructions furnished us on the 23rd ult., we proceeded to investigate the state of Tracadie, Neguac, and Tabistac, with reference to the disease at present prevailing in these Settlements; and have to state the following particulars for the information of the Government.

We are unanimous in the opinion that the disease is the Elephantiasis Græcorum, or Tubercular Leprosy; and that it is contagious; but like all other contagious diseases, there are many who appear exempted from its influence, or in other words, it requires a peculiar predisposition to render the individual liable to its influence.

We have taken great pains to trace the origin of this disease, and from the testimony of some of the oldest settlers, we are enabled to state that the first case occurred in the person of Ursale Landré, one of a family of 19 children. The father of this family is supposed to have been an Acadian, and married a woman of Caraquet of the name of Mary Bredeau. This Ursale Landré, one of his daughters, married a man of Tracadie of the name of Joseph Benoit, about the year 1798 or 1799. Ursale and her husband came to reside in Tracadie immediately after their marriage, and had 5 children—3 daughters and 2 sons. She is known to have been a perfectly healthy woman, until after the birth of her youngest son, which took place in 1809. She continued in delicate health for 6 or 8 years, and it was observed about this period that *spots* or *blotches* developed themselves on the face, extending over the upper part of the trunk and extremities. After the lapse of time distinct lumps (as they described them) appeared on the face and on the inside of the throat and lips: she lost the hair of her eyebrows and eyelashes, her voice became hoarse and husky, and in short she exhibited all the characteristic symptoms of the disease, and died in 1829. Joseph Benoit, her husband, took the disease 3 or 4 years before her death, and sank under it in 1831. Our attention has been called to the circumstance of a foreign vessel having been wrecked on the Caraquet coast about seventy years ago, and it is known that two or three of the Sailors passed a winter in the house of Ursale Landré's father; but whether or not they were suffering from the disease cannot be correctly ascertained.

From these cases the disease has gradually extended itself: ten or eleven years ago only two cases existed, but at present (inde-