

**PESTILENTIAL FOREIGN INVASION AS
A QUESTION OF STATES' RIGHTS AND
THE CONSTITUTION: THE FAILURE OF
THE MARITIME STATES DEMANDS A
COMMON DEFENCE. AN ADDRESS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649239641

Pestilential Foreign Invasion as a Question of States' Rights and the Constitution: The Failure of the maritime states demands a common defence. An address by Joseph Holt

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JOSEPH HOLT

**PESTILENTIAL FOREIGN INVASION AS
A QUESTION OF STATES' RIGHTS AND
THE CONSTITUTION: THE FAILURE OF
THE MARITIME STATES DEMANDS A
COMMON DEFENCE. AN ADDRESS**

PESTILENTIAL FOREIGN INVASION,

— AS A —

QUESTION OF STATES' RIGHTS AND
THE CONSTITUTION.

THE FAILURE OF THE MARITIME STATES
DEMANDS A COMMON DEFENCE.

AN ADDRESS

Delivered before the Tri-State Medical Society of Georgia, Alabama and
Tennessee, at Chattanooga, October 26, 1892.

BY JOSEPH HOLT, M. D.,

OF NEW ORLEANS, LA.

L. GRAHAM & SON, Print, 44-46 Baronne St.
1892.

Med 4930.120.5

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY
BY EXCHANGE
IN. Y. PUBLIC LIBRARY
1942

Gentlemen of the Tri-State Medical Society: In responding to your desire to discuss the question of our common defence against the invasions of foreign pestilence, I am unwilling in a mere personal capacity to address myself to a subject so momentous in consequences, so comprehensive of the general welfare, involving our social and political economy, domestic and foreign. It is too vast to allow of utterances from a source claiming no higher personality than myself; I therefore appear before you as the duly commissioned representative of the commercial and industrial interests of Louisiana, a unit of the Mississippi Valley. I represent these interests in this relation, because they are balanced in fine adjustment upon the maintenance of public health by pestilence exclusion, and in testimony whereof I submit my credential:

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF LOUISIANA, }
NEW ORLEANS, October 12, 1892. }

Dr. Joseph Holt: DEAR SIR—It having come to the knowledge of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Louisiana, of which you are an honorary member, that you will attend by invitation the annual meeting of the Tri-State Medical Association of Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee, to be held at Chattanooga, the 26th inst., for the purpose of addressing that body on the subject of maritime sanitary protection; and knowing as we do your views and sentiments concerning the preservation of the commercial interests of the country, while also defending the public health, we earnestly request you to appear in a representative capacity for this organization, in furthering the work you have so successfully created and established, of reconciling the demands of both commerce and the public health, by equally protecting both.

Yours very truly,

[SEAL]

ROBERT BLEAKLEY, *Secretary.*

Permit me to acknowledge my appreciation of the honor conferred by your committee in the invitation to address you on this occasion, and to thank you for the opportunity so happily afforded of discussing with you perhaps the most important problem now pressing upon the American people as an imperative necessity demanding an immediate solution; a necessity which compels the

41 X 11 1/2

attention of the merchants, the scientists and statesmen of the interior as peremptorily as of the inhabitants of the exposed maritime coast. It compels a more modern recognition of the fact that our nationality is something more than a mere political fiction arranged as a halo around the State, and that in all matters of the general welfare we are a unit for weal or woe, whether manfully acknowledged or not.

Our wisest medical observers, guided by historic experience, have proclaimed a timely warning, in this lull of peace to prepare for war when next summer's heats shall quicken into malignant activity the dormant forces of Asiatic cholera, now wintering in a thousand foci in the slums of Europe and in holds of filthy ships, to be set free upon the highways of traffic when the conditions of epidemic spread shall favor the invading march of its deadly battalions. The allied forces of yellow fever, whose history of conquest needs but to be mentioned to make us tremble, are at this moment hovering along the nearest tropical approaches of the line from San Diego to Baltimore, with destructive menace.

When I contemplate the record of the pestilential invasions of our fair land; the tens of thousands of the very flower of its people swept into untimely graves; the industrial prostration and commercial losses, aggregating hundreds of millions of dollars; the protracted anguish of mind and body; when I recall to mind the general wretchedness, the public consternation and social disturbance dethroning reason and mercy, while installing anarchy ruled only by the frenzy of terror, with its shotgun quarantines and other revolting displays of the savage cruelty of cowardice, the ferocious exhibition of "man's inhumanity to man;" contemplating this historic detail of horrors, I stand appalled in the awful presence of the past, overwhelmed as in some vast cavern with the very bigness of the calamities which rise out of the darkness as dreadful spectres before me. My fears grow with

contemplation, for reminiscence conjures into hideous pictures of reality, scenes of suffering and of death.

Oh, the terrors of the ordeal! the distress, the unutterable anguish, the intoxication of horrors in a pestilence-stricken city, when the death-roll is increasing day by day, when desolation and the blackness of despair encompasses the sorrow-laden soul, and the world shuns you as the companion of pestilence and harbinger of destruction which "hath no covering;" for "the gates of death have been opened unto thee, and thou hast seen the doors of the shadow of death." Then it is that we drain the cup of woe, and taste in it the extreme agony as vinegar upon hyssop, while the fainting spirit cries with a loud voice, as it would yield up the ghost, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken us!" On every hand the weary and the heart broken, the dying and the dead, everywhere the dead, blasted hopes, aimless existence, deserted industries, ruined commerce, blighted prosperity, poverty! This is pestilence, pictured from within; a mere shadow, a dim outline of dreadful realities. The volumes of the world's history are profusely illustrated with these pictures of pestilential invasion, more fearful to look upon than battle scenes.

Shall the volumes of the future be a continued record of pestilential sway, richly illumined, like the grotesque horrors of Dante's *Inferno*, by the feverish genius of Doré? As for others, we know not; the outside world is free to picture as it may, but for ourselves, the volumes of our future must no longer be disfigured and disgraced with these glaring tokens of ignorance, negligence and stupidity, manifest in helplessness to resist and destroy an enemy whom science has subjected to the human will.

The sovereignty of mind "over *every* living thing that moveth upon the earth" comprehends "Leviathan, when he maketh the deep to boil like a pot;" and "the pestilence that walketh in darkness," the living bacillus,

that infinitesimal pathogenic primary of cholera, yellow fever, small-pox, typhus and the whole host of malignant infections. All are given under dominion, and man, the master, is himself responsible for damages that befall himself from contributory negligence. Of all vertebrates the least equipped with natural armament and with no other guide than his own intelligence, he is hedged about with destructive forces, while inexorable nature, moving in solemn complacency, bends no law from the line of its eternal course to meet him half way and shield him from threatening harm. In the desperate necessities of self-preservation we must unfold those powers stored within us, and by their exercise bear ourselves in victorious mastery, or be dashed to atoms in collision with the material forces of natural law.

Being thrown, therefore, by a necessity of self-preservation upon the splendid resources of our own intelligence, let us deal with the agents of pestilence as material, living things, to be subjugated by our rational energies; not in misdirected and futile search for a panacea in drugs, but in the higher aim and surer direction of sanitary prevention, dispensing with dispensaries and drugs, and the services of doctors to prescribe and nurses to administer, and undertakers to undertake the final disposing of the huge percentage of inevitable mortality. As for immunity through attenuated virus, the ptomaines, and the truly wonderful announcements of Behring and Kitasato, Tizzoni and Catani concerning artificial immunity by inoculation with immune blood, so named antitoxines, it is infinitely wiser to keep out and prevent altogether these foreign epidemic filth cultures. It may be curious, perhaps scientific, but never pleasant to risk immunity with sacrifice of considerable decency in having one's food swarming with bacilli and spores of cholera, or of yellow fever and small-pox in the air and over everything, killing pretty freely the unfortunate non-immuned, and now and then snatching off even the very elect whose

supposed immunity happens to miss; a demonstrated "*experimentum crucis*" when the germ gets in its handy work. It is this *experimentum crucis* we propose to avoid by extinguishing the germ through sanitary methods, not crowding science too far on lines of immune faith.

And here let me utter for sanitary knowledge and art the sentiments of deepest gratitude to bacteriology, the mother science of the sanitary art, upon the guiding researches of whose learned, ingenious, indefatigable and unselfish workers the entire sanitary system squarely rests, and without which it would not exist. Very certain it is that scientific maritime sanitation is the direct and legitimate offspring of aseptic and antiseptic surgery, and is in no line of hereditary descent, nor acknowledges kinship with the disreputable old quarantine of detention. It is from no disrespect to bacteriology or spirit of ingratitude that sanitary science aspires to possess the field of preventive medicine, relieving the necessity for anti-toxine inoculation against foreign infections by promptly slaying the germs.

It is unnecessary on this occasion to mention severally the pestilential infections, their etiology, epidemic history, symptoms and treatment. The text books and journals teem with such accounts, familiar to us all, while our purpose now moves on a loftier plane. In regard to treatment, however, I must invite your attention briefly to a most remarkable phenomenon invariably associated with cholera and yellow fever, not mentioned in the books. With the threatened or actual advent of these two diseases there is always observed a great precursory and enveloping cloud of sure-cure prescriptions. The journals full of them; the newspapers full of them; bushels and bushels, thousands and myriads of prescriptions; the young doctor just from the hospitals, double-shotted; the old lady, the quack, the washerwoman, everybody—except the experienced old doctor—has a sure remedy; and all are satisfied, and so is cholera as it kills straight along,