

Appendix  
(W.)

22nd March.

duced by the famine was most extensive, the disease amongst the passengers has been the greatest; and the other principal cases will be seen by the Returns to have occurred in vessels sailing from ports where the fever was the most severe.

Great sickness  
in the best ships  
from infected  
ports.

Another fact to which we would draw particular attention is, that, whilst ships quite filled with Emigrants from healthy places made the voyage successfully, there are instances (as will presently appear) of vessels sailing under the most favourable circumstances from Cork, carrying military pensioners well fed, and under the care of their own surgeons, who suffered quite as much as the other Emigrants from the same locality. Thus the most ordinary arrangements were enough, if ships sailed from places where no pestilence prevailed; the best arrangements were fruitless, if they sailed from infected ports.

Remarks on the  
ships' allowance  
of bread stuffs.

The question of the sickness in this year's Emigration has been discussed in a letter to the *Times*, from the late Dr. Combe—not less temperate in its tone, than judicious and humane in most of its suggestions; and in the sequel it will be found that we have not failed to bear several of them in mind. But our object here is to notice one point which appears to us to require explanation. Dr. Combe's letter quotes a remark reported to have been made by Earl Grey in the House of Lords, that the Emigrants had "embarked in such a state of health that in some cases the very change to a better diet on board of Emigrant ships had caused fever to break out amongst them." And the letter then points out the limited and inadequate sustenance which the ships' ration could afford, and suggests that Lord Grey must have been misinformed.

We are anxious to explain that it has never for an instant been supposed that the ships' allowance of bread constituted, without other food, a sufficient and proper sustenance for passengers to North America. As a security against actual want, the vessel is bound by law to furnish daily a pound of bread to each passenger; but it has always been enjoined upon Emigrants that they ought to furnish themselves with other kinds of food; and so they always have done, until this year's scarcity. But the present question is not whether the ships' bread is enough for the whole support of a passenger; it is whether, when a man had previously been starving, the change even to that diet might not in some instances have been one of the causes which brought on fatal disorder. Whatever may be the true answer to this question, the authority for Lord Grey's remark is to be found in a statement, to which we had drawn attention, by Dr. Douglas, who has for several years visited and examined the vast multitudes of Emigrants who have arrived in Canada, and than whom, no man is better entitled, both by knowledge and by the humane interest he takes in the subject, to have his opinion cited. In a letter, in which it is impossible not to see that every expression is dictated by genuine feeling, he says, "All the Cork and Liverpool passengers are half dead from starvation and want before embarking, and the least bowel complaint, which is sure to come with change of food, finishes them without a struggle."

Opinions of the  
principal officers  
in America on  
the causes of  
sickness.

We shall conclude our notice of the apparent causes of this year's sickness, by quoting the opinion of some of the officers of the largest experience in British America. Mr. Buchanan, as Lord Grey is aware, has for several years discharged the office of Chief Emigration Agent at Quebec with much credit. Mr.

Perley has had the same opportunities of observation in New Brunswick as Mr. Buchanan and Dr. Douglas in Canada. Now, from Mr. Buchanan (who, we regret to say, has suffered from a dangerous attack of fever,) we have not yet any general comments; and he merely remarks in one place that, as we have above said, the ships' allowance is not in itself a sufficient amount of food. In a letter which we have recently seen from Dr. Douglas, he writes as follows:—"It has been said by people not informed on the subject, that the frightful mortality and sickness was caused by the over-crowded state of the passenger vessels, and the want of proper food and medical attendance. Now, however much these might have mitigated the evil, it could be easily proved that it was not caused by their want. The thousands of German Emigrants who arrived this year, all came in good health; and they were more crowded in consequence of their greater quantity of baggage. The transports 'Blenheim' and 'Maria Somes,' with pensioners and their families from Cork, were just as sickly as other vessels, yet these had plenty of room in well-ventilated vessels, good staff surgeons, and were regularly supplied with good wholesome food, animal and vegetable, daily. The disease was in all cases brought on board the vessels, (not generated there,) and it found fit subjects in the half-starved miserable wretches who composed the mass." Mr. Perley, whose intelligence and zeal are favourably known to Lord Grey, also concurs in chiefly attributing "the greatly increased mortality to the debilitated state of the Emigrants before embarking, and their inability to bear the fatigues of a sea-voyage after long fasting and other privations."

Of course, we do not mean that, if the nature of the case admitted of putting the people under strict discipline and control, or if their circumstances were such that they could be better provided with clothing, more cleanly in their habits, and better fed, all these favourable elements would not greatly improve their chances of health. On the contrary, Sir William Colebrooke, and some of the agents, often justly point attention to the superior condition in which vessels arrive, when the masters have fortunately been able to enforce attention to any of these points. But this circumstance has been common to the Emigration of every year. All we have wished to show is, that no serious misfortunes having occurred in former Emigrations, the cause of the great difference between them and the Emigration of this year has been the state of Ireland.

Discharge of  
their duty by  
the Emigration  
officers.

Next comes the question, whether there has been any neglect of duty by the officers employed to enforce the Passengers' Act. We trust that this will not be assumed against them, merely because misfortunes have occurred of which we have just shown how comprehensive and how powerful were the causes. Circumstances beyond their control have this year produced the most deplorable sufferings, in the midst of which the only just question, as far as regards these officers, is whether they have faithfully discharged such powers as they have at their disposal.

In support of the hope we entertain, that they will be found to have so acted, we might partly rest on the nature of the correspondence in which we are daily engaged with them. We might also refer to the opinions which we often find expressed by gentlemen of station who have occasion to pass through the places where these officers are employed, and to see the manner in which their duties are performed. And at some of the largest ports in the kingdom we have good reason to know the satisfaction felt by the

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