

BRITISH
NORTH AMERICA.

No. 1.

(No. 59.)

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COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor Sir DONALD CAMPBELL, to
Earl GREY.

Government House, Prince Edward Island, Aug. 4, 1848.

MY LORD,

(Received August 21, 1848.)

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's Despatch of the 30th June,* No. 30, conveying your Lordship's view with respect to 4th, 6th, and 18th sections of the Act,† for regulating the introduction of immigrants, passed in the last session of the Legislature of this island.

I regret that any part of the Act referred to should have failed to receive your Lordship's approval, as with the exception of the 6th section, requiring masters of vessels to make certain issues of food to the passengers throughout the voyage unless any enactment to the contrary shall have been made by the Imperial Parliament; it was the endeavour of the local Legislature to assimilate its provisions in all essential points to the Emigration Act passed by the Legislature of Canada, in accordance with the suggestions communicated in your Lordship's Despatch of the 2nd December last, No. 5,‡ and with that object, the 4th section requiring the master to publish correct lists of his passengers, and to give bond for all above a certain age who appear most indigent and infirm; as also the 18th section which makes the wrecks of emigrant vessels liable for any taxes, rates, and penalties, claimable under the Act, were introduced into the Bill.

I have taken the necessary steps to prevent any proceedings being instituted against the masters of vessels or others for any infringement of the 6th section of the Act, and proper discretion and forbearance shall be exercised to mitigate the consequences of the responsibility imposed upon masters of emigrant vessels by the 4th section.

As regards the 18th section I will bring it under the notice of the Council and Assembly in the next session of the Legislature with the view to its repeal.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) DONALD CAMPBELL.

Lieut.-Governor.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

* See page 58, Papers on North American Emigration, presented to both Houses of Parliament, June, 1848.

† This Act will be found printed at page 53 of the North American Emigration Papers, June, 1848.

‡ Page 166, Papers on North American Emigration of December, 1847.