

hand, insisted, during a considerable period, on having the entire cost defrayed from the general revenue. After an exhaustive discussion, the late Duke of Newcastle decided that the planters should pay two-thirds, and the general revenue one-third, of the entire cost, including establishments and back passages. It was my duty to bow to the decision arrived at by my official superior, but I am bound to admit that after a careful consideration of the arguments by which that decision was supported, I became convinced that it was a wise one. It was at the time generally accepted by both parties to the controversy, and I cannot but regret that the question has been re-opened, as I perceive that it has, from a perusal of the *Anti-Slavery Reporter*. I should not infer from Mr. Des Vœux's remarks that he had given any serious thought to the subject. He seems wholly unacquainted with the reasons on which the Duke of Newcastle based his decision; and in ignorance of those reasons he admits, in paragraph 96, that it was "fair enough," that at first one-third of the cost should be paid by the colony. It so happens that the reason given by the Duke of Newcastle for affording relief to the planters, exists in much greater force at present than it did at the time when His Grace's decision was announced. That reason was, that the Imperial and Indian Governments had found it necessary to impose onerous conditions on immigration, to many of which foreigners, with whom our planters have to compete, were not subjected. I need not refer to all these conditions, imposed no doubt, in the interest of humanity, but many of which would be open to objection, and would lead to much controversy, if the whole cost were thrown on the planters. I may point out that, of late years, the number of passengers which an immigrant ship may carry has been considerably reduced; the food and medical comforts have been improved, and new regulations involving increased cost have been adopted by the Indian Government. The consequence has been that the cost of immigration has materially increased; and though I am writing without the means of referring to figures, I do not hesitate to state my conviction that the

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