

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

EMIGRATION TO THE COLONIES.

—No. 1.—

ANNUAL REPORT from *T. Frederick Elliot*, Esquire, Agent General for Emigration, to the Marquess of *Normanby*.

No. 1.
Agent General
for Emigration
to the Marquess
of *Normanby*,
15 August 1839.

My Lord,

2, Middle Scotland Yard, 15 August 1839.

I HAVE the honour to present to your Lordship the usual annual return from the Custom-house of the number of persons who have emigrated from the United Kingdom during the year 1838; and, in illustration of this return, I also enclose a statement of the average number of emigrants from all parts of the United Kingdom during the six preceding years, from 1832 to 1837 inclusive, and likewise a return of the numbers who have emigrated in the two first quarters of 1839, from such ports as have resident Government agents.

*Annual Returns
of Emigration.*

In any general use which may be made of these returns, it will be desirable to bear in mind, first, that any estimate of the increase or diminution of emigration from Ireland cannot be complete without having regard also to Liverpool, from which great emigrating port a large proportion of the people who proceed—perhaps two-thirds—consists of Irish passengers who come there to embark; and, secondly, that in the emigration to North America the numbers embarked respectively for the British Colonies and for the United States do not afford an accurate test of the numbers ultimately destined to those two quarters, as persons who can afford it generally prefer in either case the passage by New York, and the route by that port is likewise the most direct to all the western parts of Canada.

*Explanatory
Remarks on these
returns.*

It will be seen that the emigration from the United Kingdom to North America fell off in the year 1838, from the average in the preceding six years of about 35,800 to the British Colonies, to 4,500, and from the average of about 32,700 to the United States to 14,300, making a general decline from 68,500 to 18,800; but that in the year 1839 the numbers have increased within the first half of the year, and exclusively of all ports except those which have resident Government agents, to 9,600 to the British Colonies, and 22,400 to the United States, or 32,000 in all.

*Decline of emi-
gration to North
America in 1838,
and partial revival
in 1839.*

The most obvious cause for the great decline in the year 1838, and the one to which it appears to be most commonly attributed, is the Canadian insurrection, which had occurred in the previous winter. Some influence has also been ascribed to the stimulus which has been given to emigration from this country to the Australian settlements.