

NEW SOUTH
WALES.

Maj.-gen. Brouke
to Mr. Secretary
Stanley.

*Vide Sessional
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of a communication with some parts of the interior, and still more from the indisposition of many of these persons to proceed up the country, since there is at all times, I am persuaded, a considerable unsatisfied demand for domestic female servants of a respectable character among settlers.

A few of the more educated among the emigrants by the Bussorah Merchant have obtained situations as private governesses. The wages received by the parties who have engaged as domestic servants (including housekeepers) vary, I believe, from 8*l.* to 16*l.* a year, besides board and lodging; and those who are employed as governesses receive, as far as I have been able to ascertain, from 20*l.* to 25*l.*

I apprehend no difficulty in providing for the emigrants by the "Layton" in the same way, when that vessel shall arrive.

You have adverted to the report made by my despatch of 24th September 1832, on the rates of wages then paid in the colony, observing that they were by no means so high as those stated in the printed paper issued from the Secretary of State's Office for the use of emigrants, and suggesting that the introduction of fresh labour, since the date of that despatch, may have still further reduced its remuneration. In reply, I would state that I believe the prices then given to be pretty much the same with those which can be obtained at present. I have given the printed paper inclosed in your despatch to the Collector of Internal Revenue, and return it to you with his corrections. I selected him as the person from whom the best information on the subject could be obtained, not only from the intercourse which he holds with the emigrants seeking employment here, in his official capacity, but also as secretary to the Emigrant's Friend Society, an association established here some time ago for the accommodation, and when necessary, for the relief of those persons; but which, like other societies of the kind, has been abandoned by all who were most clamorous for its formation, and the whole of the labour is left to the secretary alone. It is reported by him that "single men and women are in general most in request, and next to them young married couples without children; but with respect to the latter, husbands and wives are frequently obliged to accept of employment under different masters, much unhappiness and temptation to infidelity being thereby caused. But large families of thriving children," he observes, "would in a few years prove a valuable accession to the colony, and it would be a pity to discourage the emigration of such families."

It is stated in your despatch that expectations have been formed of repayments made, as it is supposed, by the earliest arrived emigrants, in whose favour advances of 20*l.* each had been issued. I am sorry to say, that up to this date no repayments have been made by those persons; and although many of them have signed a valid obligation, upon which execution against body or goods might be obtained, it has not been thought prudent to take such a step; and to obtain payment by any means short of compulsion, is, I believe, altogether hopeless. The Collector of Internal Revenue observes upon this subject, "I feel confident that no material assistance can be looked for from this source. I am firmly convinced, not only that no general or extensive repayment of the advances made can be enforced, but also that if insisted on and enforced in the comparatively few instances in which it might be so successfully, the consequences would be injurious, as sober, steady men would find themselves no better off, after two or three years of laborious industry, than their idle, dissipated companions; the Government having carried off the little savings which the good conduct of the first described parties may have enabled them to lay by, while the public-houses have absorbed the disposable earnings of those last mentioned."

"If it is resolved on by the government to imprison all those who do not repay the advances made, four-fifths of the persons so assisted will be imprisoned.

"If they are so, the news of such treatment will soon reach England, and an effectual stop will be put to emigration.

"If the idle and drunken are allowed to evade repayment without suffering any bad consequences, while the industrious are compelled to pay, because they possess some little means, it will, in fact, be holding out a premium for idleness and drunkenness."

I confess that I concur in a great degree with the opinions of the Collector of Internal Revenue on this subject, and I do not mean to enforce the repayment of advances, though I shall not fail to demand them in all cases where the parties can be got at; and I propose to continue to require the obligations in the most valid