

vided they can get a freight for their vessels, which would otherwise come in ballast, are indifferent as to the consequences that result from it.

I must further trespass upon your Lordship's time, while I explain the system at present pursued by those who carry on this unprincipled trade. Proclamations, such as I have the honor to enclose, are posted up in different parts of Ireland, &c. as your Lordship will perceive, totally falsifying the real state of the vessel intended to transport those wishing to emigrate; the parties either pay down four pounds, and find their food, or six pounds and are victualled; if they cannot pay themselves, they procure a bond from their friends, to be cancelled if they can, on their arrival at the port of debarkation, obtain the required sum upon the strength of their future labour; if not, the bond is sent home and enforced; the more passengers, therefore, the merchant can put on board his vessel, the greater his profit; and although disease may assail the whole or part of them, the advantage to him is the same, who is not even at the expense of the meanest medical attendant for the moltey and dense crew he takes on board.

Should it hereafter be deemed advisable to re-enact the Passengers Act, or enact a new one, I must beg to draw your Lordship's attention to that part of it (6 Geo. IV. c. 116,) which exempts from its operation all hired servants coming to the fishery. I am not aware of the grounds for this exemption; if inserted from the supposed interest the hirer would have in the welfare of his servants, it quite fails to secure them the expected advantage, for in point of fact it scarcely ever occurs, except at some few establishments in the out-ports, that the hirers make use of them in the fishery; the ideal master only so shipping them as servants, to evade the operation of the Act, disposing of them on his arrival at the port of destination.

If I may be permitted to offer an opinion, I would observe, that at once to do justice to the shipper and passenger, medical men duly qualified, and others conversant on these subjects, should be consulted as to the extent of space absolutely necessary for the health of each individual who embarks; the quantity of water and provisions that should be provided per diem, and the rules and regulations that should be adopted for cleanliness; and when this is once satisfactorily ascertained, it would be as cruel to the passengers to admit of an increased number on board, as it might be unfair to the merchant to restrict him to a smaller limit; but the law should then make it penal, by summary process, the transgressing the prescribed bounds and regulations; and I would further beg to suggest to your Lordship, that the offenders should be liable to be proceeded against in the colonies, as well as in Great Britain, a defect in the late Passenger Act, which limited the proceedings in such cases to the mother country.

I have, &c.

(signed *Tho' Cochrane.*)

The Right Honourable Viscount Goderich,
&c. &c. &c.