

both food and water was much too small for the multitudes on board. In many instances from six to eight hundred were huddled together in one indiscriminate mass, being double the number which the vessels were capable of accomodating with any degree of comfort or safety. I must here, my lord, express my deep regret that men pretending to be Christians, and especially that Britons could be guilty of such barbarity, evidently for the paltry purpose of freeing themselves from the natural and just burden of assisting to support and provide for their own poor. Such an outrage on the claims of humanity, my lord, might have been committed in the vile and heartless traffic of the slave-trade, on which England has set the seal of her just reprobation, and against whose inhuman warfare she has pointed the cannon of her gallant navy; but that such horrible and disgusting scenes as just described should have been enacted under the very flag which should be a protection to her unfortunate and defenceless subjects, is unworthy of England, and throws a dark shade over the bright escutcheon of her well-earned fame and glory. It would, in my opinion, have been more humane to have at once deprived them of life, than to have thus subjected them to those extreme sufferings and privations which served only to increase the fears and magnify the terrors of a painful dissolution.

I cannot here refrain from enumerating to your lordship a few among the many instances where, in the shipment of these unfortunate beings, an utter disregard was had, not only to every principle of humanity, but even to those common decencies of life which nature in the lowest depths of degradation and misfortune so scrupulously seeks to preserve. Those emigrants from Kilkenny, Queen's County, Wicklow, and the estates of Virginia and Avon, of which Lords De Vesci and Fitzwilliam, and Major Mahon and Captain Wandersford, are the several proprietors, were in a state of fearful destitution, as well as those from the estate of Lord Palmerston.

In confirmation of this fact, I beg leave to state to your lordship, that a public meeting of the citizens of St. John, New Brunswick, has been recently held, at which it was resolved "to ship back to Ireland the decrepit, aged, and naked children and women brought to that port." These unfortunate beings constitute a part of the two shipments from Lord Palmerston's estates at Sligo.

A copy of this resolution has been transmitted to His Excellency the Governor General, to be forwarded to Her Majesty's Government. Comment, my lord, is here unnecessary; and language would be wholly inadequate to express the measure of that just indignation which such a development is calculated to inspire.