

under no compulsion. at the first outbreak of the contagion, but unfortunately not in time to escape its ravages; for they carried the infection with them, and those attacked by the dreaded disease on their way homeward were left by their friends on the shore to perish untended.

Many Indians died in this way in addition to those whose deaths were registered but I am unable to perceive what measures it was in the power of Government to take, other than those which were adopted for the protection and succour of the white and Indian population alike.

I will only remark further on the general subject of the condition of the Indians in the Colony that it is unhesitatingly acknowledged to be the peculiar responsibility of Government to use every endeavour to promote the civilization, education and ultimate Christianization of the native races within our territory and that any practical scheme for advancing this object which it would be within the scope of the pecuniary ability of the Colony to carry into effect would be adopted with alacrity. At present this good work is almost exclusively in the hands of Missionaries of various denominations