

rates kept within bounds that will not prove ruinous, by making at once contributions which perhaps they can ill afford, for the purpose of accelerating the passage of these unfortunate beings to a foreign country.

Experience has proved that the present want of system with regard to emigration, has inflicted a positive evil upon this province; but it has also proved, that robust, healthy men, of steady habits, and with means to commence agricultural operations in the wilderness, may live in comparative comfort, and in time become independent proprietors, and useful members of the community.

It will be unnecessary for me to suggest to your Excellency, how highly important it is that future settlers, like those who are already established in the province, should be firmly attached to their king, and to the laws and institutions of their country.

I have, &c.

(signed) *R. Simonds,*
Sec^r to the Central Agricul. and Emig. Society.

To His Excellency
Major-General Sir Howard Douglas,
&c. &c. &c.

St. John, New Brunswick, 17th Sept. 1827.

THE condition of emigrants arriving in this port during the present season has, generally speaking, been of a most deplorable character. Many families landing in a state of absolute destitution, and others suffering under a complication of disease.

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The causes of these appear to be the poverty of the emigrants *at the time of their embarkation*, through which they are unable to provide suitable provision for the voyage; and the very crowded state in which they are kept during the long passage of the Atlantic, being, at the same time, subject to no salutary regulations, save their own guidance, in the application of their stores, which often fall short, and little pains being taken for the comfort or cleanliness, diseases of various kinds soon take root amongst them, which, ere they arrive in port, attain an alarming, and frequently fatal extent.

That the abrogation of the law formerly in force, regulating the treatment and restricting the number of passengers on board of merchant vessels, tends to increase the sufferings of these unhappy beings, there appears too much reason to believe, and arrivals have taken place here among the present summer, of vessels, in a state never witnessed before, and disgraceful to those having the charge of them. The emigrant has been repeatedly called upon to relieve those *on board*, who, suffering from disease, and had not wherewithal to procure a meal of the most ordinary food. On such occasions medical men have attended, whose opinions were, *that the maladies arose from privations on the voyage extended through the crowded and unclean state of the vessels.*

Notwithstanding the very benevolent donations of His Majesty's Government, in addition to the sums raised here for their relief, much misery still exists about the city, and so great are the demands made upon the public charitable funds, that should they continue at the present ratio, the expenditure will exceed the receipts, 25 per cent for the year; and as the tale ships are said to be about to bring an increase to the number already here and *unemployed*, it is to be feared that the district during winter will be most afflicting.

The provisional hospital established for their relief has been full of patients during the summer, but the expenses attending it, and supplying provisions, &c. to those sent into the country, will soon exhaust the funds at the disposal of the society; and humane as the inhabitants of this place are, any further appeal to them at this hour of general depression might increase their sympathy, but could not justly be expected to produce any additional means of relief.

There is a general complaint made by the emigrants, which, if correct, is highly reprehensible on the part of those concerned; viz. *that they are deluded by prospects held out to them by their venal carriers previous to embarkation*, which induces many to part with their all, in order to raise the amount of passage-money under the assurance, that, *on their landing here, His Majesty's Government will furnish them with lands, implements of husbandry, and provisions for twelve months*; this imposition is fraught with much mischief to the individual, and highly unjust to our Government.