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particularly the heads of families, as to the individuals under whose authority and direction they had been permitted to embark in such a defenceless and unprotected condition. The answer invariably was, that it had been done by one or other of the parties above mentioned. When blamed for going on board those vessels, in which they sailed in such a state of debility and want, they gave for answer that they were starving at home, and were induced to that step by being promised many advantages, which they had never realised. For instance, there have been this year about one thousand persons shipped off by the agents of Lord Palmerston, who not only promised them clothes, but they were assured that his lordship had agents at Quebec, to whom instructions had been sent to pay them all from £2 to £5 each family, according to their numbers. On their arrival, however, no agents of his lordship were to be found; and they were then thrown upon the bounty of the Government here, and the charitable donations of private individuals. If his lordship was aware of this most horrible and heartless conduct on the part of his Irish agents, and he one of the Ministers of the Crown, I dare not say what he would deserve. But that charity, my lord, which "thinketh no evil," would teach me to hope that a nobleman of England, high in the confidence of her most gracious Majesty, and sharing in the honourable administrations of her Government, could not so far forget that duty which he owed to God, his Sovereign, and his country; but that it was the wanton and unauthorised act of worthless and unprincipled hirelings, in whose bosoms every principle of humanity and every germ of mercy had become totally extinct.

Many thousands of these unhappy beings have fallen victims to that cruel system of marine imprisonment which, in crowded vessels, and the impure atmosphere of twist decks, induces contagion and produces that endemic disease which so rapidly spreads over the mass of its congregated victims. Vast multitudes have died on the passage out; while a still greater portion of them have reached our shores in such a sickly and debilitated state as to defy the penetration of medical skill, and to find wholly unavailing all the attentions and nursing care of their humane and faithful attendants. They landed on our shores only to find an early grave—the only asylum for that hopeless sorrow which too often embitters a blighted and miserable existence. Hundreds of them most solemnly declared that their food consisted entirely of bad biscuit and oatmeal; and that in many cases both of these articles were in a state not fit to feed swine, having become saturated with sea-water, and reduced to a mouldy and putrid condition. The quantity of