

Copy of a Report of a Committee of H. M. Council ; dated Halifax,
20th November 1827.

Enclosure.

The Committee of His Majesty's Council appointed to examine the accounts rendered for the expenses of the Hospital established at Bankhead, for the reception and relief of the sick among the unfortunate emigrants who arrived during the season from Ireland,—

Report, That they have examined the said accounts, and find regular vouchers for all the payments; they think that the establishment has been conducted with as much attention to economy as was practicable, and that the public are much indebted to the zeal, activity and humanity of the committee appointed by his Excellency, and the commissioners of the poor for the town of Halifax, by whose unremitting exertions the distresses of the unfortunate sufferers have been much alleviated, and the progress of disease checked.

The Committee cannot close this report without calling the attention of his Excellency and the board, to the pernicious effects which have ensued from the removal of those regulations, which the wisdom and benevolence of Parliament established for the government of vessels bringing emigrant passengers from the mother country. These unfortunate beings are no longer protected by the wholesome restraint which was formerly imposed upon the cupidity and want of principle of those who engage to provide them with passages across the Atlantic, and are now crammed together on board of vessels, without any adequate means of subsistence, without medical aid, or room to afford them decent accommodation. Under these circumstances, disease is inevitable, and the wretched beings are not only thrown on shore in a state which renders them incapable of procuring their own subsistence, but they carry infection among those who may charitably receive them; the law which restrained these evils is no longer in force in Great Britain, and we have no legislative enactment here to prevent the recurrence of the calamity which we have endured this year, or to punish the authors of it. The United States, on the contrary, have most wholesome regulations upon this subject; and while this state of things continues, it is obvious that the refuse only of the superabundant population at home will come to us, while all the valuable and useful emigrants will embark for the United States. No decent person, who has the means of procuring a comfortable passage for himself or family, will venture on board one of these receptacles for filth and disease; he will seek for accommodation in some American vessel, which will convey him to the United States, where he will be lost to his country for ever, while we shall be overwhelmed with as many ignorant paupers as the artful and unprincipled men can carry on this traffic can delude.

Your Committee therefore suggest the propriety of bringing this matter under the consideration of His Majesty's Government, without loss of time, in the hope that those useful regulations may be revived, or that some legislative enactment may be resorted to, to prevent the recurrence of so alarming an evil.

(signed) *Ja^s Stewart,*

Brenton Walliburton,

S. B. Robie.

Committee Room, Halifax, 20th Nov. 1827.