

famine was most extensive, the disease amongst the passengers has been the greatest; and the other principal cases will be seen by the returns to have occurred in vessels sailing from ports where the fever was the most severe.

Another fact to which we would draw particular attention is, that whilst ships quite filled with emigrants from healthy places made the voyage successfully, there are instances (as will presently appear) of vessels sailing under the most favourable circumstances from Cork, carrying military pensioners well fed, and under the care of their own surgeons, who suffered quite as much as the other emigrants from the same locality. Thus the most ordinary arrangements were enough if ships sailed from places where no pestilence prevailed; the best arrangements were fruitless, if they sailed from infected ports.

Great sickness in the best ships from infected ports.

The question of the sickness in this year's emigration has been discussed in a letter to the "Times" from the late Dr. Coombe, not less temperate in its tone than judicious and humane in most of its suggestions; and in the sequel it will be found that we have not failed to bear several of them in mind. But our object here is to notice one point which appears to us to require explanation. Dr. Coombe's letter quotes a remark reported to have been made by Earl Grey in the House of Lords, that the emigrants had "embarked in such a state of health that in some cases the very change to a better diet on board of emigrant ships had caused fever to break out amongst them." And the letter then points out the limited and inadequate sustenance which the ship's ration could afford, and suggests that Lord Grey must have been misinformed.

Remarks on the ship's allowance of bread-stuff.

We are anxious to explain that it has never for an instant been supposed that the ship's allowance of bread constituted, without other food, a sufficient and proper sustenance for passengers to North America. As a security against actual want, the vessel is bound by law to furnish daily a pound of bread to each passenger; but it has always been enjoined upon emigrants that they ought to furnish themselves with other kinds of food; and so they always have done, until this year's scarcity. But the present question is not whether the ship's bread is enough for the whole support of a passenger; it is whether, when a man had previously been starving, the change even to that diet might not in some instances have been one of the causes which brought on fatal disorder. Whatever may be the true answer to this question, the authority for Lord Grey's remark is to be found in a statement, to which we had drawn attention, by Dr. Douglas, who has for several years visited and examined the vast multitudes of emigrants who have arrived in Canada, and than whom no man is better entitled, both by knowledge and by the humane interest he takes in the subject, to have his opinion cited. In a letter, in which it is impossible not to see that every expression is dictated by genuine feeling, he says, "all the Cork and Liverpool passengers are half dead from starvation and want before embarking, and the least bowel complaint, which is sure to come with change of food, finishes them without a struggle."

We shall conclude our notice of the apparent causes of this year's sickness, by quoting the opinion of some of the officers of the largest experience in British America. Mr. Buchanan, as Lord Grey is aware, has for several years discharged the office of Chief Emigration Agent at Quebec with much credit. Mr. Perley has had the same opportunities of observation in New Brunswick as Mr. Buchanan and Dr. Douglas in Canada. Now from Mr. Buchanan (who, we regret to say, has suffered from a dangerous attack of fever), we have not yet any general comments; and he merely remarks in one place that, as we have above said, the ship's allowance is not in itself a sufficient amount of food. In a letter which we have recently seen from Dr. Douglas, he writes as follows:—It has been said "by people not informed on the subject, that the frightful mortality and sickness was caused by the over-crowded state of the passenger-vessels, and the want of proper food and medical attendance. Now, however much these might have mitigated the evil, it could be easily proved that it was not caused by their want. The thousands of German emigrants who arrived this year, all came in good health, and they were more crowded in consequence of their greater quantity of baggage. The transports 'Blenheim' and 'Maria Somes,' with pensioners and their families, from Cork, were just as sickly as other vessels, yet these had plenty of room in well ventilated vessels, good staff surgeons, and were regularly supplied with good wholesome food, animal and vegetable, daily. The disease was in all cases brought on board the vessels (not generated there), and it found fit subjects in the half-starved miserable wretches who composed the mass." Mr. Perley, whose intelligence and zeal are favourably known to Lord Grey, also concurs in chiefly attributing "the greatly increased mor-

Opinions of the principal officers in America on the causes of sickness.