

**22nd May, 1855.**

FIRST SESSION, SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 18th & 19th VICTORIA.

---

I learn with deep regret that that important Branch of our Commercial Industry—the Seal Fishery—has this year failed to produce even an average return, and that the condition of a very considerable proportion of our population is such, as to render it impossible to avoid extending to them a large amount of eleemosynary as well as other aid, at the charge of the Public Revenue.

The rapid growth and the present extent of pauperism, constitute, indeed, an evil of appalling magnitude.

An unnatural element in any Colonial community, and lying as a canker at the very root of political and social prosperity, your early and earnest attention will, I am confident, be given to an examination of the causes by which it has been produced or fostered, and to the application of such remedies as may be within your reach.

Many new channels of employment will probably result from a freer Commercial intercourse with the United States; and the development of those Resources, which although hitherto comparatively neglected, there seems no doubt that this Colony itself possesses, would, I sanguinely anticipate, open a wide field into which, by judicious legislation, the industry of our hardy and adventurous people might be successfully directed; not only without disturbance of, but possibly with much advantage to those settled pursuits, to which British capital and enterprise have so long been profitably devoted.

You will, I am sure, feel with me that the moral, useful and intelligent education of all classes of the people, is more than ever necessary to give full scope and beneficial operation to those principles upon which our new form of Government is based.

The value of improved intercourse, whether by land or sea, between the seat of Government and the Out-settlements, as well as amongst those settlements themselves, is, I am aware, too well felt and understood to render it necessary that I should now urge it upon your attention.

Upon the interesting questions I have thus briefly noticed, and upon many others of more or less importance to the community, you