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Copy of a DESPATCH, and its Enclosures, from Sir Howard Douglas to
Viscount Goderich, dated 14th September 1827.

Fredericton, 14th September 1827.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Earl Bathurst's despatch of the 10th April 1826, transmitting to me the copy of the Bill for repealing the Act of the 6 Geo. IV. for regulating vessels carrying passengers to foreign ports, and desiring me to inquire into the treatment of pauper emigrants during their passage to New Brunswick, and to report the result of those inquiries.

I lost no time in desiring the secretary of the Emigrant Society to call upon the several committees acting at the principal sea-ports of the province to make every inquiry, and to furnish me with the fullest information on this subject.

I have now the honour to transmit reports from the Emigrant Societies at St. John, St. Andrew's, Miramichi, and Liverpool, covered by a letter from the secretary of the Emigrant Society of the province, by which your Lordship will perceive that the repeal of the Act referred to is considered to have been productive of much misery and distress to the emigrants, and has occasioned a good deal of distress and alarm in the province. So intensely, indeed, do the settlers appear to feel upon the probable effects of this setting of a desultory current of pauper emigrants, that I could not get answers altogether confined to the points which I referred to the secretaries, as expressed in Lord Bathurst's despatch. But the documents transmitted herewith contain true statements of what it is very important your Lordship should be made acquainted with, and I transmit them accordingly.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

(signed) *Howard Douglas.*

The Right Honourable
Viscount Goderich,
&c. &c. &c.

Fredericton, 10th September 1827.

Sir,

Enclosure
1.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the accompanying letters from the secretaries of the several agricultural and emigrant societies established in the sea-ports of this province on the subject of the abolition of the regulations which heretofore existed with regard to the carrying of passengers from the United Kingdom to the colonies.

From these reports, as well as from information received through other channels, added to my own observation, I am persuaded that the tide of indiscriminate emigration is flowing to our shores too rapidly for the good of the colony, or for that of the emigrants. Most of those who are able to work go to the United States for want of adequate employment here; and others who arrive in a diseased and helpless state are a burthen to society, which, in the present depressed state of the province, it is ill able to bear.

It is notorious that many of the poor emigrants are deluded from their homes by false but specious statements of brokers and ship-masters, whose sole object in prosecuting the inhuman traffic appears to be that of collecting as large cargoes as possible of their unsuspecting fellow-subjects; and as the passage-money is paid in advance, it is of little consequence to them, in a pecuniary point of view, whether the hapless victims of their cupidity perish on the voyage, or live to spread disease and death among the people on whose shores they may be landed.

A large proportion of the emigrants who land in this province go to the United States, but on their way thither the people of the settlements through which they pass are burthened with the expense of feeding them.

Painful as it may be to allude to the characters of the emigrants, yet it is too true that many of them are the veriest refuse of their own country. The consequences of mixing such a people with our old settlers may be easily foreseen; and if the present rage for indiscriminate emigration continue, the only hope that will be left to the inhabitants is, that their children may yet be preserved from that contaminating communication which corrupts good principles, and the poor

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