

the Legislative Council, on two occasions, to move an address to her most gracious Majesty, which, having been voted, was forthwith addressed and forwarded.

I do not desire to offer your lordship, in the present communication, any views or opinions which I may have formed as to the policy of those measures which have been adopted by her Majesty's Government in relation to those emigrants who have been sent to Canada; nor is it my intention to impugn the motives of those landed proprietors of the mother-country who have sought, through the great stream of emigration, to rid themselves of the burden of a worn-out and unprofitable population, wholly destitute of that mental and physical exertion indispensable to useful labour and the success of honest industry.

I am, my lord, wholly averse to any vain and useless exhibition before the public eye which might bring me forward as a prominent actor in those scenes of human wretchedness and degradation which, in the performance of my official duties, it has been my misfortune to witness. Nothing short of that imperious sense of duty, which all faithful and loyal subjects owe to the honour and interests of their Sovereign, and to the weightier responsibilities of an enlightened humanity, could have induced the present appeal to the justice and clemency of your lordship.

The public position in which, by the favour of the Executive Government here, I have been placed, as chairman of the Lay Commission, and, by the partiality of my fellow-citizens, as chairman of the annually-chosen Emigrant Committee, have enabled me, through an experience of nearly twenty years, to understand something of the plan of emigration, as adopted by the Home Government, and carried out by the regulations and provisions of our colonial policy. A large portion of that time has been devoted to the interests and comforts of those who have, through untoward events, sought, in this land of their adoption, to improve their worldly means, and to elevate their civil and political condition. Such, however, was the utter destitution and misery of a large portion of these misguided and ill-fated people on their arrival, that the unwearied ministrations of public charity and the resources of private benevolence fell far short of that alleviation which their immediate necessities so urgently demanded. Of the one hundred thousand men, women, and children, who sailed from the various ports of England, Ireland, and Scotland, to Canada, the greater part were sent off by the extensive landed proprietors of Ireland and their agents. I beg leave most respectfully to state to your lordship, that in the frequent intercourse had with the emigrants, I took occasion to question the adult portion of them,