

## MR. BUCHANAN'S REPORT.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE *Matthew Lord Aylmer*, &c. &c. &c.

Office of His Majesty's Chief Agent for the Superintendence of Emigrants  
in Upper and Lower Canada, Quebec, 12th December 1832.

MY LORD,

THE navigation having closed for this year, I am enabled to submit to your Lordship the following Report respecting Emigration to the Canadas during the past season; and from which Report your Lordship will perceive, on referring to Paper No. 1. in the Appendix, page 10, that the total number of Emigrants arrived at Quebec and Montreal, and recorded at this office, from the opening of the navigation this year to the present date, amounts to 51,746. The same paper exhibits a detailed statement of the ports from whence the Emigrants respectively came; also a comparative statement of the number arrived the last and the three preceding seasons, amounting in the aggregate to 145,875.

Your Excellency will perceive, that although the recorded number of persons arrived this year exceeds that of last by 1,492, yet owing to the abuses in violation of the Passenger Act last year by some shipmasters, in making short reports of the number on board, the total number of Emigrants by the St. Lawrence, arrived in the Canadas in 1831, have exceeded that of the present season by about 5,000; the excess, however, will be more than counterbalanced by the influx of British and German Emigrants into Upper Canada, who come by way of New York and Philadelphia. Thus it will be found that the number of Emigrants arrived this year, and actually settled in the Canadas, will vary little from 55,000. It was very generally supposed last spring, from the accounts received from all parts of the United Kingdom, that the Emigration this year to Quebec would have amounted to 75,000 or 80,000 persons.

Your Lordship will doubtless recollect the opinion I had the honour to offer to your Excellency on this point in the early part of the spring, which opinion was, that the number of Emigrants to arrive during this year, compared with that of the preceding year, would be less; my conclusion was principally drawn from the fact, that great pains were taken by some persons, opposed to the introduction of British Emigrants into the Canadas, to circulate unfounded reports respecting the extent of distress endured by them on arrival, and of a general want of employment in every part of the country.

Your Lordship will observe, on reference to page 9, that the number of Emigrants arrived from England this year exceeded that of the preceding by 7,138. From Ireland there has been a falling off of 5,929, and from Scotland, the difference is only 144. The general description of the Emigrants that have arrived the past season were above the average of preceding years; many respectable and wealthy families came from all parts of the United Kingdom; and the extent of property and actual specie brought into the country by them has been exceedingly great, fully amounting from 600,000*l.* to 700,000*l.* sterling. The number of persons, aided by the parishes or landlords to emigrate from the United Kingdom, were nearly the same as last year, and will be found, on reference to page 10 in the Appendix, amounting to 4,988 persons. The principal portion of these Emigrants came from the counties of York, Norfolk, Suffolk, Bedfordshire, Northampton, Kent, Sussex, Hampshire, Somersetshire and Gloucester; they were generally provided with letters of recommendation to this department from the gentry of the respective counties or parishes from whence they came, and to which recommendations prompt attention in every instance was paid. The mode hitherto adopted in sending out Parish Emigrants admits of considerable amendments; instead of intrusting the funds intended for the benefit of these Emigrants after landing to themselves or the masters of ships in which they come, I would respectfully submit the expediency of such funds being transmitted under the control of the King's Government, and to be disbursed by the direction of the chief agents for Emigrants at the port of landing, at such periods and places as it might be considered most advantageous for the persons for whose aid it was intended. From all the informations I have been enabled to collect, the sums generally allotted by the landlords or parishes would be found sufficient to aid their industrious labouring poor after arrival at Quebec, if judiciously expended; but, unfortunately, the irregular system hitherto adopted, exposes them to the risk of squandering the money on board the ship, through various temptations and the cupidity of ship captains and brokers. No money should be given to Pauper Emigrants until they reach their final destination in the country, unless what absolutely is necessary to support them on the route.

A Ticket from this department would be taken as cash by the forwarding agents, and the balances that would be due, each pauper family could have paid him at his destination, free from any deduction, except the sum actually disbursed for transport and support on the route.

With reference to Upper Canada, I have already had the honour of receiving instructions from the Lieutenant-governor of that province, relative to the transmission of the funds of Emigrants, and which arrangements will equally apply in the case of Pauper Emigrants.

The instructions issued by His Majesty's Commissioners for Emigration in London with reference to Parish Emigrants coming out, and the mode recommended for transmitting funds, is in general well calculated for the purpose, but to make it practically advantageous, it must be made imperative on the parish authorities to uniformly adopt it.

By adopting the plans which I have now the honour to submit, all the reasons of objection to this class of Emigrants which is so industriously brought forward by mistaken philanthropists