

first adopted will become necessary, to prevent a recurrence of the same evil for the future.

It was unfortunately so much the interest of shipowners to look to numbers rather than to the qualifications of the candidates for loans and bounties, that no means were neglected by which passengers could be obtained; and agents were consequently dispersed throughout the country to induce persons who might not otherwise be so disposed, to come forward to avail themselves of the proffered assistance. A check to this system may be expected to lessen very materially the number of the emigrants; but any deficiency in this respect will be made up to the colony by the superiority of those who, I trust, will still be desirous of proceeding there; and who will, as far as possible, be strictly limited to the description of persons to which, in the report enclosed in your despatch of the 11th April 1832, it is recommended that the encouragement should be given.

An agent of Government stationed at Liverpool, from which port most of the emigrants have hitherto proceeded, has now been appointed to superintend this branch of the business, whose duty it will be to investigate the characters and circumstances of all applicants for the loans or bounties. Through the instrumentality of this agent a check will exist against those mis-statements which have been found in the written applications of shipowners and the parties themselves, notwithstanding the certificates by which such applications were always accompanied. I have thought it necessary to enter at once into this explanation, in order to anticipate in some measure the disappointment which I fear may arise on the arrival in the colony of some of the persons who may have proceeded thither; and to show that, although the error may have been committed, His Majesty's Government are not insensible to the existence of it, or unprepared, so far as may be in their power, to provide a remedy, with the view of introducing into the colony a more respectable and profitable body of mechanics and females than may have already reached it.

With regard to the latter class of emigrants, it has been extremely satisfactory to me to observe, in a perusal of your despatch of the 24th September last, the course which you had pursued in disposing of the female emigrants by the "Red Rover;" and I request that you will favour me with an equally full report on the general character and behaviour of the females sent out in the "Bussorah Merchant," and as to the manner in which they have been provided for. These females were selected by a committee of gentlemen in London, who certainly evinced great zeal in the voluntary duties which they undertook; and it is to be hoped that the results will be commensurate with their labours. The females who are preparing to embark in the "Layton," which ship will sail about the 15th of next month, have been selected with equal care by the same gentlemen; and for similar reasons to those which induce me to desire to receive a special report in respect to the females who have proceeded to the colony in the "Bussorah Merchant," I am anxious to know to what extent those by the "Layton" may realize the expectations which are formed of them by the gentlemen to whom, as before stated, their selection has been entrusted.

There are some points adverted to in your despatch of the 24th of September last, upon which I shall now take the opportunity of offering a few observations.

It would appear, from the information which you have communicated in regard to the wages paid in the colony at the date of your despatch, that the rates are by no means so high as they were stated to be in the printed paper issued by this department on the 18th July 1831, for the use of emigrants; and every care has accordingly been taken to undeceive those, upon this point, who had not already taken their departure. As the arrival in the colony of so large a body of mechanics and labourers as that which has proceeded there since the date of your despatch, may still further reduce these rates, I request that you will return to me the enclosed paper, corrected according to the present demand for persons of that description, with such additional particulars affixed to it as it may be deemed of advantage to the emigrant to be acquainted with prior to his leaving this country.

The complaints which you have made respecting the conduct of the discharged soldiers, who have been allowed to commute their pensions, are not, I am concerned to say, limited to those who have proceeded to New South Wales; similar representations having been received from every other quarter where they have established themselves. The system of commuting the pensions of such persons will in all probability be discontinued; and it will be my endeavour, as far as it may be possible, to prevent any soldiers who may be still in the receipt of their pensions from participating in any facilities which may be afforded to any other description

NEW SOUTH
WALES.

Mr. Secretary
Stanley to Major-
general Bourke.

*Vide Sessional
Paper, 141, April
1833.*

*Vide Sessional
Paper, 141, April
1833, p. 36.*

*Vide Sessional
Paper, 328, Oct.
1831.*

*Printed Notice of
13 July 1831.
In Sessional Papers,
328, Oct. 1831.*