

No. 1.
Agent General
for Emigration
to the Marquess
of Normanby,
15 August 1839.

intervention of the Board of Admiralty. The masters and officers of these ships, it is scarcely necessary to say, are not selected by the Government, the business of navigating them being provided for, according to the established custom, by the owners of whom they are hired. The "Juliana" sailed with a party of emigrants from Kent in October 1838; but in going into the Cape of Good Hope in the following month of January, by daylight, and in fine weather, with the wind off the shore, as is stated in the report of the surgeon superintendent, she was run on rocks within 120 yards of the beach, and lost, through what cannot appear otherwise than gross neglect and misconduct on the part of the master and some of the officers of the ship. The emigrants were landed as quickly as possible by large boats from the shore, without accident, and were lodged in one wing of the military barracks; and the great majority of them have since been forwarded to New South Wales, by two opportunities engaged for their conveyance, the rest of them having settled at the Cape.

Change in the
mode of managing
the Government
emigration.

Having entered very fully into the details of the duties connected with the Government ships to New South Wales, in a separate letter, dated the 10th instant*, upon the report of a committee of council in the colony upon emigration, and having prepared a Return for Parliament which will exhibit every particular as to the expenses of these vessels, the mortality on the voyage, the length of passage, and other points of statistical information, I need not enlarge on the subject here. I will merely observe, that throughout 1837, and during part of 1838, the interference and the responsibility of this office must be understood to have been much more limited than they have since become, for that during that period the idea prevailed, which had been suggested from the colony, of throwing as much as possible of the management of each party of emigrants, and the ship they were embarked in, upon its own surgeon superintendent; and although in the progress of the greatly augmented emigration of 1838, it became evident that more and more of the charge must be taken into the hands of the central and superintending department, the fact that all the arrangements had been made with reference to the other plan caused some time to elapse before the more direct control of one office could be accompanied by as many measures as I could have wished for giving system and uniformity to the whole business. As an example of my meaning, I may observe that there was a great deficiency of the reports on past voyages, which were of course the first requisite towards new improvements. Each surgeon superintendent having been deemed almost exclusively answerable for his own expedition, as soon as he had concluded his voyage and delivered his people in the colony his function appeared closed, and it was not to be expected that he should take particular pains to supply an ample body of information to the departments in England. Thus the advantages which might have been drawn from an accumulated experience were to a considerable degree wasted.

Measures with a
view to its improve-
ment.

After the close of the season of 1838, however, I was enabled to call together the three medical officers of the navy who had been appointed to the duty of selecting emigrants in the three portions of the United Kingdom, and with their presence and assistance, as well as aided by some excellent practical advice from more than one of the Government agents stationed for the general protection of emigrants at London and other ports, a thorough revision was made of every branch of the service. The dietary, the medicines, the various descriptions of stores, down to the minutest article, were all reconsidered and remodelled. I had previously drawn up a code of regulations for a vessel that happened to fall more immediately under my own eye, which was now extended to all the Government ships, for the good order of the emigrants; and I afterwards prepared a short volume of instructions for the guidance of the surgeons superintendent, which most of those officers have appeared to find useful and acceptable. Having offered this sketch of the course of the measures adopted for the improvement of the Government emigration, I beg leave to refer to the other report, and the return already adverted to, for further details. But, as the instructions to the surgeons superintendent comprise, in fact, a general view of almost

* Printed for Parliament in this Return, p. 52.