

poses the crews to much additional risk and fatigue, and the property to extra hazard, but is also a great means of engendering disease, of exposing the poor Emigrants to much hardship from the want of shelter, and of vexatious delays from the increased difficulty of getting the boats up the Rapids; the disasters that are of daily occurrence between the Cascades and the Cedars afford ample testimony of the truth of these assertions. In order to lighten the boats sufficiently to get up the Rapids, the Emigrants are (no doubt from the evident necessity of the case) all put ashore at the Cascades, and they are thus compelled to walk, without regard to the state of the roads or weather, as far as the wharf at the Cedars, which, from their being necessitated to carry their provisions and younger children a distance of six miles, they reach in a state of great bodily excitement. *If the boat come up in time*, they are again taken in, under all the disadvantages of being huddled together in the heated state which their system has just acquired! *If the boat do not come up in time*, which most frequently occurs, from the great liability to getting a-ground, or the snapping of the tow-line, which sends the boat back to the foot of the Rapids, the poor Emigrants are divided in the sad choice, whether to remain during the night on the wharf at the Cedars, or walk back to the boat, where some of them may chance to have bedding; but in neither event have they any other shelter than the open air, under all the chances of unfavourable weather, for, of late, so great has been the alarm created by cholera, that every door seems to be shut against them, including even taverns (those legally constituted accommodations for travellers!) several of whose hosts have struck their sign-boards, shut up their houses, and, in some instances, deserted to the back concessions; these causes combined, all contribute to a forced exposure of the poor Emigrants to fatigue, and cold, and disease, the latter of which, but with very few exceptions, terminates in death!

It has been particularly noticed during the last eight or ten days, that boats passing upwards have been so crowded as to obstruct the proper management of them on the part of the crews;—the day before yesterday there were two, on board of which the poor people could not have found space to change their position!—a few days before, there were several Emigrants left behind in a most distressing situation, having been parted from their provisions, their bedding, and their families. The case was, that their boat, being about to be taken in tow at La Chine, was observed to be so overloaded with stores and passengers as to be nearly in a sinking state, so that many of the poor people had to quit it in a moment of confusion and hurry, and take passage in another, which being lighter, got up the Rapids with ease, and so outstripped the heavier one, that the people were under the necessity of retracing their steps, to join their families again!—thus is there every appearance of disease being permanently nourished along this line of the water communication, and a daily accumulation of destitute Emigrants upon this place, which it is but ill able to maintain. The scenes of wretchedness that continually present themselves are most heart-rending; and what adds much to the distress is the want of medical assistance to meet the number of cases,—hence the great mortality that prevails amongst these poor people,—the greatest number of cases occur at the halting places; but there are also many who, on the first symptoms of the malady, are landed at unfrequented points, there to meet a certain and fast approaching fate! In anticipation of pecuniary aid from being led to expect an organised Board of Health, we erected a temporary hospital, on a small scale, and made the necessary arrangements for the treatment of the sick, and by this means have afforded relief to many of the passing strangers, but the expenses are so fast growing upon our hands, that we really shall not be able to uphold this establishment much longer; and sickening as have been the scenes that we have already witnessed, the consequences of a forced suspension of this act of humanity will indeed be most appalling! Having thus, in a hurried, yet I believe correct, strain brought together circumstances of a nature highly deserving the intervention of some regularly constituted body or institution, we place them at your disposal, with every confidence that they will be put in train to arrest the progress, if practicable, of occurrences so evidently calculated to produce much public inconvenience and calamity.

On my own behalf, and that of the several persons who have requested me to frame this appeal, I beg to remain, Dear Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

C. J. FORBES, Esq. }  
Montreal. }

JAMES THOMPSON.

(COPY.)

CORNWALL, 24th July, 1832.

SIR,

I HAVE to state for His Excellency's information, that a Durham boat, of the second size or class, arrived here early on Sunday morning with one hundred and forty-one Emigrants on board, besides a vast deal of luggage, twenty-five barrels of salt, and the crew. The Emigrants had tickets for a free passage, from the Chairman of the Emigrant Society at Montreal, a Mr. De