

for the same, on the requisite documents being sent to London through your Excellency or the Lieutenant Governor for the time being :

That your memorialists have suggested the above two plans, under the hope that your Excellency will take the necessary steps to bring the subject before His Majesty's Government, and that they do so under the certainty of your Excellency's being perfectly aware of the evil, and fully disposed to procure relief; and also that it appears to your memorialists that the first plan is not only a definite measure, and one attended with no difficulty in collecting, but likewise that it imposes no material tax on the parties paying the same, though relief would from it be given to your memorialists.

By attending to the prayer in the above petition, your memorialists will be obliged to your Excellency, and, as in duty bound, will ever pray,

By order of the Court,

(signed) *Ja^s Peters, jun., Clerk.*

St. John, 2d October 1827.

— 3. —

Copy of a DESPATCH, and its Enclosure, from Sir James Kempt to Viscount Goderich, dated 7th September 1827.

Halifax, 7th September 1827.

My Lord,

IT will be my duty, at a future period, to communicate with your Lordship more fully than I am now prepared to do relative to the pernicious effects that have come under my own personal observation resulting from the late repeal of the Act of Parliament "for regulating vessels carrying passengers;" but an alarming instance of this evil having been this morning made known to me, I think it right not to defer any longer calling your Lordship's attention to the subject.

I always considered the 17th section of the 6 Geo. IV. c. 117, exempting vessels carrying passengers from Ireland to any of the North American colonies, from the excellent provisions of that Act, as an unwise enactment, notwithstanding the controlling power vested in the Lords of the Treasury over vessels desirous of availing themselves of such exemptions; but even that restriction, insufficient as it has proved to prevent abuse, is now removed, and the result is as might have been expected.

There this day arrived in the brig James, from Waterford, 120 passengers of the most wretched description, all of whom, as well as the whole crew, are labouring under the typhus fever, as will appear by the enclosed copy of a letter from the health officer.

One hundred and sixty embarked in Ireland; five died at sea; and the vessel being obliged to put into St. John's, Newfoundland, for medical assistance and provisions, thirty-five were left behind there, too ill to proceed.

The disease among these miserable people was occasioned solely by their scanty nourishment during the voyage—by the crowded and filthy state of the ship, and by a want of medical assistance. I wish that this were the only case of a like nature that I could adduce.

During the summer five vessels have arrived at this port from Ireland, all crowded with passengers, among whom sickness, produced by the same causes, prevailed to so great an extent as to oblige me to establish an hospital expressly for the reception of these poor emigrants.

Nor are the fatal consequences of the repeal of the Act in question confined to the passengers, their disease is contagious, and many of the inhabitants of the town have been and are afflicted with it.

What I have stated will probably be sufficient to satisfy your Lordship of the expediency of re-enacting the Passenger Act, (with the exception of the objectionable clause to which I have alluded,) or of substituting some new regulations before next season, to guard against the continuance of the existing evils; but as the medical gentlemen in charge of the hospital, and the committee I have appointed to administer relief to those unfortunate emigrants, are preparing a report