

Letter from  
Mr. Buchanan.

There have arrived eleven other vessels with emigrants, who have been assisted by their parishes to emigrate, amounting to 2,721 souls. These people, with the exception of a few, received their money on leaving England, and the consequence is, that very many, on their arrival here, were almost destitute, having spent their money in purchasing provisions and spirituous liquors from the captains during the voyage. This occurred particularly in the "Allandale," from Yarmouth, with 177 passengers, sent out by the Earl of Stradbroke. Some of them on their arrival here were almost destitute, and had scarcely sufficient means left to pay their expenses to Montreal. In my letter to his Lordship I took the liberty to mention, in the event of his assisting any more families to emigrate, the adoption of your printed instructions. There have been very many complaints made to this department by the passengers who have arrived from Liverpool, for imposition and detention, which is practised on them in that port.

In the case of the "Eliza," Captain Fox, which vessel was chartered by Messrs. Shaw & Co. to bring out emigrants, they were detained several days after the time fixed for sailing, and an overcharge for emigrant tax was made on the children under age, having charged 5s. currency per head; whereas the law allows two children under fourteen years, and three under seven years, for a full passenger.

I inclose you a list of the names of 17 families, who were overcharged to the amount of 5 l. 11 s. sterling, and I hope you will be able to recover the same for these poor people. I did endeavour to make the captain responsible; but, on submitting the case to the Attorney-General, I found I could not do so legally, and have therefore to request your interference in this matter.

Messrs. Shaw & Co. have sent out a considerable number of emigrants this season, and there have been complaints made against them by them all for imposition and detention. A considerable number of them mentioned that they applied to the Government Agent in Liverpool, but could not get any redress. Several other cases of a similar nature have occurred in vessels with emigrants from Ireland and Scotland; and the passengers by the "Glasgow," from Greenock, were charged 10 s. a head for tax.

It would be advisable if the Government Agents at the different ports were furnished with a copy of the provincial Statute, as far as relates to Emigration.

This tax was renewed last Session of the Provincial Legislature until the year 1838. It imposes a tax of 5 s. currency on every passenger arriving from the United Kingdom over 14 years, and allows two children under 14, and three under seven years, for a full passenger.

A Report made a few days ago from the inspecting physician at Grosse Isle to the Governor in Chief, of a case of gross neglect on board the ship "Celia," which was chartered by Messrs. Shaw & Co., and the "Kingston," both from Liverpool, the former with 427, and the latter 347 passengers. The water casks of each were of so bad a quality, having pine heads, and otherwise insufficient, that a great portion of the water leaked out, and the passengers suffered the greatest inconvenience. In the first-named vessel, but five days' water remained on board on their arrival at Grosse Isle; and a few days after sailing, the whole of their berths, with the exception of four, fell down in a slight gale, and severely injured many of the passengers. In the "Kingston," though but thirty-nine days on her passage, the passengers were on short allowance of water for six days. I wish to make you acquainted with these facts, in hopes that such measures may be adopted as will prevent their occurring in future. I would beg to suggest, that, in sending out passengers in future, it would be well to prohibit the captain selling to them spirituous liquors, unless it was ordered by the medical attendant on board; as in very many instances those people who received their money through my hands were in debt to the captain to the amount of 12 s. and 15 s., which reduced their small allowance very much.

The emigrants have been very considerable this season: the number arrived up to the present date is 22,228 souls; and all those in want of employment have obtained orders for it immediately on their arrival here.

There are several thousand labourers at present wanted on the public works in Upper Canada. All descriptions of mechanics will meet with immediate employment and high wages on their arrival in the Eastern Townships and Upper Canada.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

(signed) A. C. Buchanan, jun.,  
Acting Chief Agent.

J. D. Pinnock, Esq.,  
Government Agent General, London.