

N^o 18.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Arthur* to Viscount *Goderich*, dated Van Diemen's Land, 28th June 1832.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Lordship's despatch, transmitting copies of the Reports, addressed to your Lordship by the Commissioners of Emigration, on the subject of the encouragement to be afforded to female Emigrants, and the Regulations they have drawn up on that subject; also transmitting copy of a former Report from the Commissioners, detailing a plan for assisting another class of Emigrants (families), together with the correspondence which embraces the sanction of the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury upon the propositions which had met your Lordship's previous concurrence.

Your Lordship is also pleased to notify that you anticipate the first detachment of Emigrants may arrive in the Colony not long after the receipt of the communication which I have now the honour to acknowledge.

Having addressed your Lordship at much length upon the subject of Emigration in my despatch of the 9th July last, I am anxiously anticipating to be honoured with your Lordship's commands upon the points which I have therein so very amply brought under your consideration, and I should willingly have delayed enlarging upon the subject until I was aware how far the sentiments I have already ventured to submit met with your Lordship's approval; but the subject is altogether so interesting in its nature, and the promptitude with which relief can be afforded to the lower class in England, is a matter of so much consideration in the question, that I deem it proper not to delay offering such remarks as have occurred to me on an attentive perusal of the Report of the Commissioners, supposing your Lordship may be desirous of ascertaining how far their recommendations are adapted to the circumstances of the Colony.

The Report of the 10th October refers to Female Emigration, and every judicious precaution appears to have been contemplated for guarding against any abuse of the measure, but I venture to differ with the Commissioners upon the necessity of affording assistance to this description of Emigrants *as a bounty*. Females, such as it is the professed intention of the Commissioners to send out, can be so immediately provided with situations on their arrival in the Colony, that they may most reasonably be expected to repay, within 12 or 18 months, or at the very utmost within two years, the sums advanced on account of their passage. In place of a *bounty* therefore of 8 *l.*, I submit that sum should be an *advance*, with power given to the officer administering this government to extend the period for its repayment, so as to afford the Female Emigrants ample time to liquidate the debt according to the particular circumstances of each case; and, under this arrangement, the funds appropriated for the Emigration of Females may be made available to an extent which cannot be contemplated if the assistance given be in the shape of a *bounty*.

In the Report of the 24th September 1831, the Commissioners have, most accurately, shown the causes which have prevented the agreements entered into between settlers and indented servants from being satisfactory to either party on their arrival in the Colonies, and the arrangement they have proposed of making advances from the Government, will obviate most of the difficulties and disagreements incident to that question.

With regard to the 20 *l.* advances, there will be no difficulty whatever in finding means for recovering the repayment of that sum, if the Emigrants should be unwilling or dishonest enough to refuse the repayment; and if, as the Commissioners have proposed, the advances be confined to sober and industrious persons, skilled in some of the ordinary mechanical arts, or who are strong *useful* husbandmen, no apprehension certainly need be entertained of their *capacity* to repay the amount of their advances, until such very large numbers shall have arrived as shall make a most sensible impression upon the present enormous high rate of wages.

I am not, however, so sanguine as to imagine, my Lord, that this grand undertaking can be carried into effect without some checks and many difficulties; no doubt, after all the trouble which the Commissioners may take, and after all the inquiries which may be instituted, some worthless characters will be imposed upon the liberality of the Government, and in some instances the heads of families, it is to be feared, in the course of Providence, may be cut off during the voyage; in
either

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