

emigration in time past, it was followed in these years by the poorest who could get away, and various means were adopted to help each other off. One plan was to start a subscription paper in a district, and collect money enough to send out a quota of friends, who might afterwards from their new home assist those left behind. Instead of going to the populous lowland parts,—where at times, owing to the state of public opinion, there were difficulties thrown in their way,—they would engage a vessel which would be quietly brought into the solitary bays or arms of the sea that here presented their waters almost everywhere close to the doors of the cottages, and, having taken the passengers aboard, sail quietly away. Having arrived on the other side of the ocean, as quietly and unobserved did they land their invaluable freight, “spreading broadcast the seed of a noble race over immense and fruitful lands.”*

In some cases men contributed part of their wages or income, till a fund was gathered to send a party out, and when enough was thus raised, they would “draw cuts” or cast lots as to which of the number should go. Of such were many of the 300 on board the “Earl of Buckinghamshire.” And so, while Thomas Pringle and his party were making an equally memorable voyage to found their Scotch settlements in the Cape Colony, these hardy Highlanders were sailing to Canada, some of them to leave an enduring name upon the pages of her history. Indeed, the pure-minded poet of South Africa had already friends in Canada, and more were perhaps on this very ship, for it is to these he refers in his elegy written afterwards on a tombstone at Dryburgh Abbey:—

Over many lands his venturous race
Are scattered widely; some are in the grave;
Some still survive in Britain; Ocean's wave
Hath wafted many to far Western woods

* Duke of Argyle's “Scotland as it was and as it is.”