

is bound by law to furnish daily a pound of bread to each passenger; but it has always been enjoined upon emigrants that they ought to furnish themselves with other kinds of food; and so they always have done, until this year's scarcity. But the present question is not whether the ship's bread is enough for the whole support of a passenger; it is whether, when a man had previously been starving, the change even to that diet might not in some instances have been one of the causes which brought on fatal disorder. Whatever may be the true answer to this question, the authority for Lord Grey's remark is to be found in a statement, to which we had drawn attention, by Dr. Douglas, who has for several years visited and examined the vast multitudes of emigrants who have arrived in Canada, and than whom no man is better entitled, both by knowledge and by the humane interest he takes in the subject, to have his opinion cited. In a letter, in which it is impossible not to see that every expression is dictated by genuine feeling, he says, "all the Cork and Liverpool passengers are half dead" from starvation and want before embarking, and the least bowel complaint, which is sure to come with change "of food, finishes them without a struggle."

Opinions of the principal officers in America on the causes of sickness.

We shall conclude our notice of the apparent causes of this year's sickness, by quoting the opinion of some of the officers of the largest experience in British America. Mr. Buchanan, as Lord Grey is aware, has for several years discharged the office of Chief Emigration Agent at Quebec with much credit. Mr. Perley has had the same opportunities of observation in New Brunswick as Mr. Buchanan and Dr. Douglas in Canada. Now from Mr. Buchanan (who, we regret to say, has suffered from a dangerous attack of fever), we have not yet any general comments; and he merely remarks in one place that, as we have above said, the ship's allowance is not in itself a sufficient amount of food. In a letter which we have recently seen from Dr. Douglas, he writes as follows:—It has been said "by people not informed on the subject, that the frightful mortality and sickness was caused by the over-crowded state of the passenger-vessels, and the want of proper food and medical attendance. Now, however much these might have mitigated the evil, it could be easily proved that it was not caused by their want. The thousands of German emigrants who arrived this year, all came in good health, and they were more crowded in consequence of their greater quantity of baggage. The transports 'Blenheim' and 'Maria Somes, with pensioners and their families from Cork, were just as sickly as other vessels, yet these had plenty of room in well ventilated vessels, good staff surgeons, and were regularly supplied with good wholesome food, animal and vegetable, daily. The disease was in all cases brought on board the vessels (not generated there), and it found fit subjects in the half-starved miserable wretches who composed the mass." Mr. Perley, whose intelligence and zeal are favourably known to Lord Grey, also concurs in chiefly attributing "the greatly increased mortality to the debilitated state of the emigrants before embarking, and their inability to bear the fatigues of a sea voyage after long fasting and other privations."

Of course we do not mean that if the nature of the case admitted of putting the people under strict discipline and control, or if their circumstances were such that they could be better provided with clothing, more cleanly in their habits, and better fed, all these favorable elements would not greatly improve their chances of health. On the contrary, Sir William Colebrooke and some of the agents often justly point attention to the superior condition in which vessels arrive, when the masters have fortunately been able to enforce attention to any of these points. But this circumstance has been common to the emigration of every year. All we have wished to show is, that no serious misfortunes having occurred in former emigrations, the cause of the great difference between them and the emigration of this year, has been the state of Ireland.

Discharge of their duty by the emigration officers.

Next comes the question, whether there has been any neglect of duty by the officers employed to enforce the Passengers' Act. We trust that this will not be assumed against them merely because misfortunes have occurred, of which we have just shown