

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

—No. 16.—

(No. 27.)

No. 16.
Governor Sir
J. Franklin to
Lord Glenelg,
4 April 1838.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant Governor Sir *John Franklin* to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Van Diemen's Land, Government House, 4 April 1838.

I AM glad to perceive, from your Lordship's despatches, that it is not likely that any emigrant ships will, for a considerable period, be sent to this colony. The want of farm labourers is not strongly indicated by the present circumstances of the colony; and although additional mechanics of good character, could they be induced to remain in the colony, and not proceed to Port Philip or South Australia, might be desirable, yet the hope of inducing them to settle here is so slight that to continue their immigration would be, I fear, a very unprofitable expenditure of the land revenue of this colony.

In his letter to Mr. Stephen of the 27th September last, Mr. Elliot observes, "On the scheme of appointing an officer from Van Diemen's Land to reside in England, on behalf of the colony, to select emigrants for it, I do not know whether it might be premature to submit an opinion, until it be seen whether the idea be adopted; when the contemplated inquiry on the spot shall have been completed." Upon this subject I may observe, for your Lordship's information, that the result of the inquiries which were instituted in the colony, after the date of my despatch of April 1837, was, as your Lordship is already aware, unfavourable to emigration as a general measure, and that accordingly very little interest was excited by the notice inviting suggestions which was at that time promulgated in the Government Gazette; and, as your Lordship will have perceived from the minute of the Executive Council of the 15th November last, it was suggested, after considering the probable effect of the arrangements then announced to be in contemplation by your Lordship, not to bring any scheme into operation in this colony which might possibly interfere with the one which has been confirmed by Her Majesty's Government.

The very conclusive evidence which has been afforded of the result of the experiment by the "Bussorah Merchant," that general emigration is by no means desirable at present, of course relieves me from the necessity of submitting to your Lordship any observations as to the best mode of conducting it; I shall therefore only confine myself, in conclusion, to strongly but respectfully drawing your Lordship's attention to the great advantage of encouraging by every possible means the emigration of free females; the importance of this was very strongly expressed in the minute of the Executive Council (which I had the honour to forward in my despatch of April last), and has been pressed upon my attention in every quarter during my last tour of inspection through the colony.

In making this suggestion, I do not know that I can recommend a better arrangement for carrying it into effect than was then submitted by the members of the Executive Council, namely, that from 200 to 300 single females should be selected by the officers of emigration in England, and sent out annually in parties of about thirty, under the charge of the masters of such merchant vessels as are regular traders to this port and that of Launceston, and carry a surgeon, of which there are several to both ports, whose commanders are well known and respected.

It would of course be necessary not to intrust the care of females to masters who are not of good moral character, and as an inducement to zealous conduct on their parts, as well as on that of the surgeons, special gratuities might be paid to these individuals for every female under their charge landed in the colony, whose treatment shall have been satisfactory, or payment of part of the passage-money might be made specially contingent on the manner in which the conveyance of the females may have been effected. I trust that the comparative success and advantage with which the emigration of respectable female servants has generally been conducted, even in the case of the "William Metcalfe," will induce your Lordship to acquiesce in its continuance, under the improved arrangements which I have recommended, with such further modification as your Lordship may consider to be most expedient.

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