

themselves to our own minds as the readiest and most available measures before we had read his letter.

Dr. Coombe further suggested the use of a ventilating apparatus ; but although we have often inquired into different proposed methods, we have never yet found any which we are satisfied could at once be required by law, to be brought into universal use.

Another suggestion of Dr. Coombe's is, that more order and cleanliness should be enforced on board. We wish, indeed, that this result could be attained ; but in speaking of enforcing discipline, it must be assumed that in some quarter or other the power of coercion should be reposed, and in whom, on board of an ordinary British merchant ship, would the Legislature or the public deem it endurable to vest powers of coercing and punishing free people who had paid for their passage across the Atlantic ?

From this examination of the measures of a nature to be taken in England, we proceed to consider whether there are any which could be adopted with advantage in the provinces. In entering on this subject, the first point which attracts attention is, the universal complaint, that so many widows, with their children, and so many old and infirm persons, have been shipped off to America. It may be doubted whether all of these were sent, as appears to be supposed in the provinces, by landlords and persons of high station, or whether, in the general disposition this year to depart from Ireland, many of these unfortunate people may not have resolved by their own means to try their fate in a new country. But whatever may be the manner in which they got away, we cannot too earnestly represent that, far from the colonies being a fit asylum for the weak, an emigrant requires even more than the average of health and strength to succeed, and consequently, that when they are assisted to go, it is equally unjust to the British provinces, and cruel to the poor persons themselves, to send out those who are totally unable to live by their own industry.

Remedial measures in the provinces.

We have already shown, however, that it would be impossible for Government to exercise any control over the subject in this country. The next question that may suggest itself is, whether the provincial legislature could require that some heavy extra payment should be made on persons likely to become chargeable to the public. To the principle of such an attempt there probably will be no objection, but we fear that it would be impossible to carry it out with fairness. The shipowner ought to be able to know beforehand with certainty for which of his passengers he would have to pay more, and for which of them less, on arriving at their destination. This, we think would be impracticable, with such multitudes as go to Canada and New Brunswick. Ten or Twelve thousand pass through Quebec in a week. It is absolutely necessary on the one hand, that they should not be delayed ; it would also be necessary, however, if a discriminating tax were established, that there should be sufficient time to admit of its being levied with equity. On the whole we are disposed to give up this idea, as not admitting of being carried into effect successfully.

Question of a discriminating tax on unfit emigrants.

But we see no reason why the emigrant tax in both provinces should not be raised to two dollars, which would increase the available funds for relief, without making that difference which would do more than exclude the most indigent and worst provided class.

Proposal of a higher emigrant tax.

And beyond this it may be a question, whether, in order to give the shipowner an interest in taking over the people in good health, and to render the vessel liable for part of the burthen which sickness casts upon the public, the Governor may not be usefully empowered by the Provincial Legislature to exact an extra tax, if the vessel requires to be put into quarantine. The rule might be, that if placed in quarantine for any other purpose than merely cleaning or observation, the Governor should have discretionary power to

Subject to increase in case of quarantine.