

VISITATION OF EMIGRANTS LEAVING THE PORT OF LIVERPOOL.

At the last Quarterly Meeting of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, the Rev. J. W. Welsh forwarded the forty-third report of his visitation of Emigrants leaving England by way of Liverpool; He said:

"Although the past winter has been more severe on the Mersey than any previous one since I commenced my duties in 1849, there were but few days when I was prevented by stress of weather from visiting emigrants on board ship. During dense fogs no boat or tug-steamer dares stir; and even the ferry boats on shore occasionally are sometimes forbidden to run. Stormy weather has seldom interfered much with my duties; for when it is stormy we assemble in the 'tween decks.

"I am happy to be able to say, that a better system has been established with reference to boats plying for hire on the river. In former letters I have mentioned from time to time the danger attending the use of them. Since my last Report an accident by which nine lives were sacrificed, occurred by one of these boats. A ship, the 'Grand Trianon,' filled with emigrants, was at anchor in the river. There was a good deal of sea on, but some riggers ventured to go alongside in a boat only twenty feet long. While they were busy repairing some stays, I came up by a ferry steamer, and got on board. Just as I had concluded my service, the captain asked me if I would accept a seat in a boat which was about to convey the riggers on shore, and in which he was going himself. I looked over the rail and saw the boat full of men; so recollecting two former occasions in which I narrowly escaped drowning in such weather, I declined going, and advised the captain not to venture his life in that way. He laughed, however, and got into the boat. I felt so anxious for the boat's safety, that I remained on deck during a violent tempest watching her progress; when within about one hundred yards of the shore, to my horror, down she went! I seized a telescope, and could then discern twelve or thirteen persons struggling in the water. A boat put off at once from the pier, when I could see that three or four were picked up, the captain being one of them; but the rest had sunk to rise no more."

It appeared by a statement forwarded by Mr. Welsh, from an official source, that about three-fourths of the emigrants who leave the United Kingdom avail themselves of the advantages of the port of Liverpool to get to their destination.

"This year the number is rather below the number of 1858. As far as can be gleaned from the statistics kept at the office of the emigration agent, Liverpool, the total number this year is 79,386; last year it was 81,326, showing a decrease of 1940. In 1857 the number was nearly double, being 155,652; in 1856 it was 127,556; and in 1855, 119,108. It may be worthy of notice that now most of the emigration to America is conducted by the splendid steamers which run from this port to various parts of the United States and Canada. The stoppage, also, of some of the passenger steamers at Belfast and Queenstown, will cause some little difference in the actual number of those leaving Liverpool."

NOTICE TO THE CLERGY.

The Committee appointed by the Church Society for superintending the issue of the "Church Chronicle" request that those of the Clergy who feel an interest of its circulation would make it known in their respective parishes and missions; and also that they would inform the Secretary of the Church Society, as soon as possible, what number of copies is to be forwarded to them in future.