

(Nova Scotia, No. 28.)

Downing Street, 25th May, 1866.

SIR,—

With reference to your Despatch No. 31, of the 26th April, and to mine of the 5th May, No. 23, I have the honor to transmit to you, for your information, the copy of a further Report from the Emigration Commissioners respecting the recent outbreak of cholera on board the "England."

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient,

Humble servant.

(Signed) EDWARD CARDWELL.

His Excellency the LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR of Nova Scotia.

[MR. MURDOCH TO MR. ELLIOT.]

(COPY)

Emigration Board, 21st May, 1866.

SIR,—

I have to acknowledge your letter of 8th instant, with a Despatch from the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, reporting the departure for New York of the "England," which had put into the port of Halifax with cholera on board, and the number of deaths which had taken place there.

2. The number of deaths Sir F. Williams states at "no less than 200," which, added to 40 deaths which are said to have occurred before the vessel reached Halifax, would make a total of 240 deaths out of 1202 emigrants, equal to a mortality of 20 per cent. I apprehend, however, that the above numbers cannot be taken as absolutely accurate. In addition to the deaths among the emigrants, was the death of Dr. Slayter, the Health Officer of the port, who contracted the disease while in attendance upon the emigrants.

3. Sir W. F. Williams states that the emigrants landed on McNab's Island caused so much trouble that it was necessary to send a detachment of the 17th Regiment to keep them in order, but that several had previously escaped; and that he proposed to obtain the passing of an Act to make such offenders "liable to all the penalties of felony." I think it right to draw attention to this intimation.

4. Sir F. Williams further suggests that the Emigration Officers at Liverpool and Cork should be admonished to do their duty thoroughly. There is no ground for doubting that those officers, and the Medical Inspectors who act under their orders, will do everything in their power to see that emigrants when they embark are in a fit state to proceed on their intended voyages. But in the cases of the "England" and the "Virginia," cholera did not make its appearance till the ships had been at sea five or six days; and it is unnecessary to point out that it is impossible by any medical inspection to discover the disease while in this latent form.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

T. W. C. MURDOCH.

T. FREDERICK ELLIOT Esq., &c., &c., &c.