

ward. We shall see later on that he has chosen the shortest and easiest route by which to return.

But far the greater number of those with us are hard-working men and women of our own British race: English, Irish, and Scottish. Some have families of boys and girls with them, some not. Altogether there are several hundreds of emigrants on board.

Emigration.

It was said at the beginning of this chapter that vessels like the one we are on, leave British ports almost every day in the whole year for some distant part of the world. They carry away with them immense quantities of goods, but equally wonderful is the number of men, women, and children which they take out of the country.

It is surprising to learn how great the number is. In thirty-three years, from 1853 to 1886, more than six millions of people of British birth left these islands to find homes in distant lands. This stream of emigration still goes on. In 1888 the number which left was a little over 280,000; in 1890 it was 218,000; in 1903, 259,950. Thus the numbers for a single year are equal to the population of a great town like Portsmouth or Bradford.

Why People Emigrate.

It is worth while thinking why all this stream of people has kept pouring away from this country for so many years, and still keeps on going. It is easy to tell a good many of the chief reasons for it.

For a long time lists have been kept of the numbers