

At a Meeting of the CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE for EMIGRANT and SANITARY PURPOSES, held at the COURT-HOUSE at MONTREAL, on Monday, the 23d July 1832, the following important subject engaged its attention :—

“ THE numberless difficulties that have been thrown in the way of the poor Emigrants to prevent or delay their progress from this to the Upper Province has induced the Committee so far to outstep the line of its duty, that, in addition to providing shelter and food for the friendless and destitute on the spot, to endeavour to facilitate their passage onwards, in order that they may arrive in Upper Canada in time to make their services available for the harvest, and thereby procure for themselves a portion of the means to subsist their families through the winter.

In the course of the Committee's inquiries the following particulars have resulted :—1st, That very little zeal has been manifested by the Forwarders, in persuading or encouraging Batteau and Durham boatmen, by extra pay, in the outset of our difficulties, to embark the Emigrants.

2dly, That no special means have been adopted to punish, by fine or otherwise, those who abandoned their boats on their passage upwards, and left their unfortunate passengers to shift for themselves, in a country where they were perfect strangers, and where the inhabitants, from a dread of infection, would naturally avoid intercourse with them ; and for which dereliction of obligation a heavy responsibility ought to rest somewhere.

3dly, When confidence was restored, the poor and indigent were permitted to remain in the Emigrant Sheds, although they had been in possession of tickets for many days, when at the same time boats could readily be procured to convey those who had ample means to pay for the transport of themselves and their luggage.

4thly, That only 30 lbs. of baggage is allowed to an adult, and none for the families of poor Emigrants by the forwarding contract, which scarcely gives a change of clothes to these unfortunates ; and for the remainder 4s. 6d. per cwt. is demanded from those who have very frequently not the means to purchase for themselves, their wives and children, a scanty supply of provisions for the voyage.

5thly, A ticket is, to be sure, given to applicants in need, at the Emigrant Office,—but afterwards they are left to shift for themselves without any information as to their further proceeding ; and but little trouble is taken at the Forwarder's Office to instruct them,—for the most part they obtain from the man in charge of the office, if the Forwarder be not in the way, a repulsive answer, and no information.

These particulars having been ascertained by the Committee, the Chairman has called upon the Steam-Boat proprietors on the Ottawa, to ascertain whether they would be willing, and at what rate, to undertake the transport of distressed Emigrants to Kingston, and its intermediate places through the Rideau.

These gentlemen most willingly lend themselves to the views of the Committee, and have expressed themselves perfectly disposed to convey them on terms not exceeding those granted to the Forwarders on the St. Lawrence, provided the Rideau Canal duty is remitted.

The advantage, therefore, to be gained by this is to the Emigrant two-fold.

1st, In insuring their arrival in Kingston within six days of their quitting Montreal, instead of from eight to sixteen by the St. Lawrence, or longer, according as the westerly winds may prevail, subject during that time to every variation of the season, to the manifest injury of health of the men, women and children, and to have their baggage wet and spoiled ; whereas from La Chine, by the Ottawa, with the exception of the trifling portage between Carillon and Grenville, they are protected and sheltered on board the steam-boats the whole way to Kingston.

2dly, They are put to a less expense for provisions, from the shorter time occupied by their journey on the Ottawa route, and thereby making their labour available so much the sooner.

These advantages are not only to the Emigrants and their families. but they are of importance in other respects.

As regards the Emigrant fund, which will be burthened in a less degree, by the Emigrant Society having to supply provisions for six days instead of from eight to sixteen, and perhaps longer.

And the funds of the Upper Province, which have been placed at the disposal of the different Emigrant Societies and Boards of Health by His Excellency Sir John Colborne, which would be considerably relieved by the Ottawa being made the general route as far as Kingston, as it would only require one point, Bytown, to be looked to instead of so many intermediate ones.

The Ottawa Company is at the same time willing to permit these poor Emigrants to take on a considerable quantity more baggage than they are allowed to convey by the Forwarders on the St. Lawrence line.

As the funds placed at the disposal of the Committee for Emigrant and Sanitary purposes will be spared to a considerable extent by the adoption of this project, from the Emigrants being sent forward so much more expeditiously ; and as it is the peculiar duty of the Committee so to husband them, that they may be able to extend charitable aid to the thousands who may yet ar-