

five thousand and upwards died on their passage to this country, and of those who landed on our shores (so far as the returns have been collected), upwards of twenty thousand have fallen victims to an insidious and fatal disease. The remnant now scattered over various portions of the province have become dispirited in mind, and, in many instances, utterly reckless of their future condition and fortunes. Those orphans who have survived the memorable visitation, remained to be provided for and educated under the fostering care of those charitable associations already filled by the indigent children of the resident poor of the several towns and cities of Canada. A large number of our humane, wealthy, and distinguished citizens, both of the clergy and laity, in various sections of the province have sacrificed their useful and valuable lives in their efforts to relieve the distresses, and comfort the last hours of the sick and the dying. Such, my lord, has been the result of emigration during the present year; and, viewing the disastrous consequences which have followed in its train, I would respectfully demand of your lordship, to what cause are we to attribute those evils which have been here so feebly depicted? How has it happened that whilst in former years, when no extraordinary distress existed, Parliament felt compelled to lay down regulations for vessels engaged in the business of transporting emigrants, and her Majesty's Government appointed agents at the emigrant ports; and now, when emigration has ceased to be of a healthy character, and increased vigilance and more active measures are required both on the part of her Majesty's Government and the Provincial Parliament of the Province, no such precautions are deemed expedient? The necessary instructions, and the terms for receiving the emigrants on board of those ships which are offered as a conveyance is now left, it would seem, entirely to the cupidity and despotic cruelty of the captains in command, and the ship agents temporarily appointed.

It is a fact which cannot be questioned, my lord, that the Government agents were, in various instances, sadly deceived, and grossly imposed on by the mercenary views and artful policy of the ship-agents, and those immediately concerned in this inhuman traffic of flesh and blood. For days before the emigrants were admitted on board, the vessels destined to receive them were anchored in the stream, having been previously furnished with a large quantity of materials and workmen actively employed for the express purpose of erecting additional berths. In some vessels, two extra tiers from deck to deck were added, into which all ages, sexes, and conditions, were indiscriminately forced. The pleadings of humanity were