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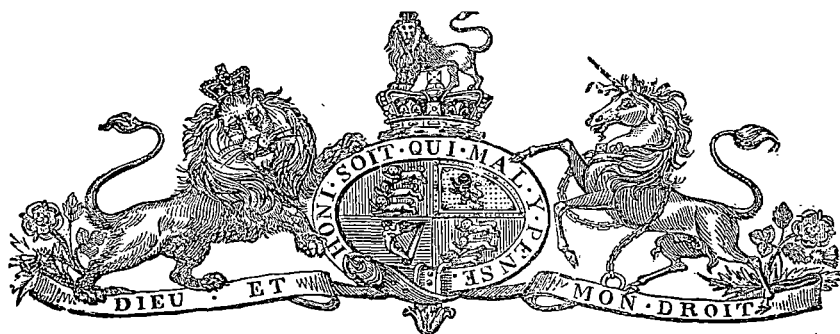
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**THE SHIP *PERSIAN*.**

REPORT FROM THE IMMIGRATION AGENT.

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Laid upon the Table by Mr. Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, 18 December, 1857.



*Immigration Office, Hobart Town, 14th December, 1857.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report upon the Emigrant Ship *Persian*, which it was found necessary to place in Quarantine.

She sailed from Liverpool on the 26th of July last, and anchored close to the Quarantine Ground at midnight on the 31st October.

The Master is Mr. Patrick Richard Kerr; the Surgeon, Mr. Joseph Gray.

The *Persian* is a new ship of 1068 tons N.M.; on her first voyage; owner, Mr. French, of Liverpool; and chartered by Messrs. Wilson and Chambers, of the White Star Line, who put all the stores on board; cargo, chiefly salt and coals.

2. On the morning of the 1st November you were yourself good enough to acquaint me with her arrival, and that she had been visited by the Health Officer soon afterwards; but that being night, and there being some confusion in the statements of those on board, the actual condition with respect to disease had not been fully ascertained, further than that there was understood to be Typhus Fever on board; also, that directions had already been given for the supply of fresh provisions.

3. Shortly afterwards, in pursuance of my permanent instructions relative to such cases, I proceeded to the Ship to ascertain her condition and requirements, when I was informed by the Captain and Surgeon that there were then twenty-nine cases of continued fever or Typhus, most of which were incipient, and three serious (in all of which latter death ensued); and that the number had rapidly increased within a very short period; that there had been fourteen deaths during the voyage, of which six were from fever, four of those having occurred during October; and that the people had also suffered from Diarrhoea.

Having ascertained what medicines and other supplies were wanted, and received the assurance of the Surgeon that no further medical assistance was required, I reported the particulars to yourself, and acquainted the Agents with the articles required, which were furnished without loss of time. All proper measures were, of course, taken by the Health Officer acting under instructions.

4. It having been decided by the Government to place the Ship in Quarantine at Impression Bay, and land the people to occupy the extensive buildings there, she left Town in tow of a steamer on the evening of Wednesday, the 3rd November; and on the 4th and 5th the people were landed, and were immediately joined by Dr. Eckford, House Surgeon of the General Hospital, who took medical charge.

Between this time and the arrival of the Ship four deaths occurred on board, making ten deaths from this cause up to the time of landing.

5. The Immigrants introduced by this ship are partly under the Bounty System and partly through the Highland and Island Emigration Society, being natives of Coll and Harris, sent out with the balance of £3000 remitted to the Society by the Government some years ago.

The numbers are as follows:—

*Bounty System.*

	<i>Regulations of 1st March, 1856.</i>	<i>Regulations of 1st July, 1856.</i>	TOTAL.
Married Men .....	3	5	8
Ditto Women .....	4	10	14
Single Men .....	11	21	32
Ditto Women .....	6	35	41
Boys, 3 and under 12 years .....	2	5	7
Girls, ditto .....	1	3	4
Boys under 3 years .....	..	4	4
Girls ditto .....	1	5	6
Births on voyage—			
Males .....	..	1	1
Females .....	..	..	..
<i>Total</i> .....	28	89	117
Deaths on the voyage—			
Boy, 1 and under 3 years .....	1	None.	1

The Bounty is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Regulations of March 1st, 1856 .....	414	0	0
Ditto July 1st, 1856 .....	1236	0	0
	<u>£1650</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

The payments of some of the gratuities will be for decision after consideration of this Report; but the full amount, including both Bounty Immigrants and Highlanders, as below enumerated, and calculated on 312 souls arrived, is £137 8s. 9d.

*HIGHLAND EMIGRANTS from the Highland and Island Emigration Society.*

	<i>Landed alive.</i>	<i>Died on Voyage.</i>	<i>Sailed.</i>
Married Men .....	26	2	28
Ditto Women .....	27	1	28
Single Men .....	47	1	48
Ditto Women .....	43	1 (widow)	44
Boys, 1 and under 12 years .....	19	1	20
Girls, ditto .....	28	2	30
Boys under 1 year .....	2	..	2
Girls ditto .....	1	..	1
<i>Total</i> .....	193	8	201
<i>Statute Adults</i> .....	166½	..	173

Births (none for payment)—1 born and died.

In the Ship List the Statute Adults are calculated on the old rule of 14 years, which makes in that List the number sailed 172½.

The Bounty Immigrants have arrived entirely to relatives or employers.

The Highlanders are chiefly crofters and fishermen, and with them are some young women who appear calculated to make excellent Colonists.

6. On the 21st November the *Persian* was released from Quarantine, and came alongside the wharf; the passengers remaining at Impression Bay, with some of the crew (sick). Regarding it as important for the satisfaction of the Emigrants and their friends, as well as that of the public and the Government, that medical opinions should be

obtained as to the disease, and regarding circumstances which might be considered as affecting the health of the Immigrants, I submitted to the Government that in making the inquiries it was my duty to institute I should have the advantage of the opinions of the Health Officer, Dr. Benson, and that of Dr. Brock, the Medical Attendant at the Depôt, which was approved of; and Drs. Officer and Butler also consented, at the request of the Government, to give their opinions on these points. The ship was accordingly visited by these gentlemen with myself, and the conclusion was unanimously arrived at, that the ventilation was so deficient that the fever might have arisen in consequence, and that existing disease must certainly have been greatly aggravated by this cause,—there being no scuttles, or any provision for ventilation at the sides of the vessels; the hatchways, and some additional openings near the centre of the deck, and the common windsails used, being insufficient.

As I have, on various occasions, particularly examined the ship, it will be proper that I should state the result.

The ship is lofty between decks, the height from deck to beam being about 7 feet. The length of the portion of the passenger's deck used for the accommodation of the passengers was about 105 feet, and the width 33 feet 6 inches, being from the solid store-room bulkhead aft to a solid bulkhead forward, beyond which a portion of the crew were berthed; the space between that and the head being merely sufficient to allow room for their berths, and the entrance being by a hatchway 2 feet square opening under the forecastle.

Between these two bulkheads were berthed the whole of the Highland Emigrants, and the Bounty families and single men, with six persons who paid their own passage, amounting to 277 souls, or 238 statute adults.

The space was divided by two venetianed bulkheads. In the after compartment were the single Highland women, the ventilation being from the after hatchway, 5 feet square. These are said to have kept their compartment clean, and the cases of fever which occurred there are stated by the Captain and Surgeon to have taken place with persons who attended their friends in Hospital,—(the McLeans, Donaldsons Goer)—till after anchoring, when the disease rapidly spread, and great numbers were more or less affected.

In the forward compartment were the Highland and Bounty single men, the ventilation being from the fore hatchway, nearly 5 feet square, and two circular holes in the deck of 6 inches in diameter, which latter the Surgeon states to have been considered of little value, and to have been seldom used. It is, in like manner, stated that the single men were little affected by disease till after the ship anchored, although they could not be made to keep their compartment clean.

In the middle compartment the whole port side, and nearly the forward half of the starboard side, were occupied by the Highland families; the ventilation being from the main hatchway about 6 feet 3 inches square, and two openings in the deck 10 feet long and 1 foot 6 inches wide, with a distance something more than the width of the hatchway between them.

These ventilators the Surgeon states to have been kept open during the day when the weather permitted, but that they were kept shut during the night except when on the line,—*he himself making a point of closing them with his own hands every night about eight o'clock*, and latterly earlier, and opening them in the morning.

It is stated by the Captain and Surgeon, and many others, to have been found impossible to induce the Highland families, who occupied three-fourths of this compartment, to observe cleanliness, or pay any attention to the necessity for permitting the access of fresh air to their berths; and the disease first appeared in this compartment, as will be hereafter described.

Thus it appears that the whole ventilation of the space occupied by the passengers on the passenger deck was derived from the three hatchways, two openings between the main and fore hatchways, 10 feet by 1 foot 6 inches, closed at night, and two holes of 6 inches in diameter, seldom used; the latter long openings and the two round holes having been apparently made to complete the extent of openings in the deck for the admission of light and air requisite, under the Passenger Act, to enable the ship to carry more than one statute adult to every 25 clear superficial feet.

Much stress has been laid by persons who have seen or heard of the ship on her not having "port-holes" or scuttles in the sides, but it is quite common for passenger ships to be without any such openings, and indeed many owners object to them as causing leakage and weakening the vessel; but passenger ships are required by law to carry an approved ventilating apparatus, and are usually provided with metal funnels, one on each side near the head, and two others near the stern, opening through the deck, and constructed so as to turn according to the wind, by means of which a current of air may be maintained and regulated along the sides of the ship, the berths being constructed so as to leave a vacant space at the top for the passage of the air.

The *Persian* was not fitted with this or any other apparatus for ventilation as required by law, but only with common windsails, which could not possibly create a circulation of air among the berths along the sides of the ship: that such must be the case is, or ought I should suppose to be, obvious to every one; and from the experience of several voyages in ships carrying large numbers of persons, and ventilated by windsails, I am well acquainted with the impurity of air, and in hot weather the insufferable heat, which exists between decks in such cases.

In the *Persian* there is another unfavourable feature which requires particular notice, viz., that a space equal to the extent of the poop was partitioned off on the passenger-deck by a *solid* bulkhead, and used as a store-room; the length of this store-room on the passenger-deck being about 57 feet, or more than one-third of the whole length of the deck—which was thus lost to the passengers.

The remaining length of the deck occupied by the passengers was, as I have said before, about 105 feet long, by 33 feet 6 inches wide, or about 3517½ superficial feet—taking the breadth as the same throughout. There were 238 statute adults on this deck; the space required by the Passengers Act being for each 18 superficial feet, or in all 4284 feet,—so that the space allowed to the passengers on that deck was about 716½ superficial feet less than it ought to have been, supposing them to have been berthed in the closest manner permitted by law: allowing for objections as to rough measurement, or anything else, they had certainly less space than they ought to have had.

The single Bounty women were berthed under the poop, amounting to forty-eight women and two children, and their accommodation was sufficiently satisfactory.

The actual origin of the disease neither the Medical Gentlemen nor myself are able to ascertain with certainty, especially as the Surgeon did not keep any journal or record of cases. The fever is stated by the Captain and Surgeon as having, in their opinion, been brought on board by Anne MacKinnon, one of the Highland Emigrants, who took to her bed on coming on board, and never rose from it, having died on the 17th August, twenty-two days after sailing, and they believe her to have contracted it in Glasgow. Her family was berthed on the forward part of the starboard side of the middle compartment, opposite one of the long openings made in the deck for ventilation; and the complaint is said to have spread from that quarter—her whole family, consisting of seven persons, having had it, and one of her sons having also died on the 12th September.

It has been suggested by some persons that the Highlanders contracted the disease from eating bad preserved meat, some of which is admitted to have been in the ship, though whenever discovered thrown overboard; but this is mere conjecture—and in the opinion of the Medical Gentlemen, as well as myself, the confined space on the passenger's deck appropriated to passengers, the want of proper ventilation, and the neglect of cleanliness among the Highland families, are sufficient to account for the disease; and I may further remark, that for two days after sailing the weather was so bad as to keep the people below. On this point I beg to append a Certificate signed by the Medical Gentlemen,—“The *Persian* is a fine roomy vessel; and had the space used as a store-room, or even the greater part of it, been appropriated to the use of the passengers, and the ship fitted with the usual ventilating apparatus, she might have been regarded as a superior passenger ship, and the people would in all probability have been landed in safety.”

7. Another subject to which attention has been called by numerous and strongly urged complaints from Emigrants, is the means of cooking on board the *Persian*. Many of them have represented that the pea-soup was almost invariably burnt, so as to be uneatable—the preserved potatoes spoiled—and the rice, which was tied up in bags,

almost always raw in the inside, so that the people represent they lost the benefit of the provisions, which were in themselves good and abundant.

They also represent that they could not get the requisite cooking done for the sick, and that their cakes were usually underdone in baking.

They do not blame the cook, but the apparatus, which they consider too small.

Captain Kerr states that he made every endeavour in his power to remedy the evils complained of, by forming a regular system, and appointing persons chosen by the Emigrants to look after it, but could not succeed in satisfying them, which he attributes in a great measure to their want of method, and their unreasonable expectations. It appears that the people appointed to assist in the galley preferred employing a lad, who was paid by them, and that many of them paid the Captain's cook to prepare food for them privately, of which, however, they state that the Captain was not aware.

I do not doubt that the complaints are, in great measure, well founded. Complaints regarding ship's galleys and the cooking are of constant occurrence, and the opinion that the galleys are too small is constantly expressed. On this subject I have frequently reported: the ordinary galleys are of a very rude construction, and consume a large quantity of fuel without any economy of heat. Without doubt, I submit, ships should be provided with the means of baking commensurate with the reasonable wants of the passengers, and with a galley sufficiently large to afford, at all times, the means of cooking for the sick without interfering with the preparation of ordinary meals.

A general improvement on this head is greatly wanted. Some ships are in this respect well and properly furnished, but very many are not: and year after year the inconvenience and the misery continue to be suffered, and the complaints to be made, without the general adoption of improved principles. It is not to be supposed that such improvements could not be effected; and the plain truth is, that there is no one who at once possesses the opportunity, the time, and the inclination to give proper attention to the subject.

It would be just as easy to require a ship to be provided with improved cooking arrangements as to pass those of an inferior kind. Were it a matter by which profit were to be made it would be accomplished quickly enough, but affecting only the health and comfort of persons whom it is the object to convey with the least expense to their destination, and the evils being out of the sight of those at home, the requisite improvements are neglected. There should be the means of keeping at all times ready for use such articles as may be proper for the sick and children.

I am quite aware that such remarks as these are usually useless, but in this case it may be otherwise; for I do not doubt that the influence of the Government will be exerted to urge on the attention of the Home Authorities the condition in which the *Persian* has been dispatched, and the consequences. To dispatch a ship in such condition is a national disgrace, and in the present state of science can only argue a culpable indifference to the comfort and the lives of passengers. Were proper and serious attention paid to the subject—means of sufficient ventilation and proper cooking adapted to various circumstances might certainly be enforced; and when, in addition to this, the Surgeon is found to be totally inexperienced and unsuitable, the subject must be regarded as demanding the most serious attention.

8. It having been reported to the Government from the Quarantine Station that the fever had abated, and assumed a milder form, I proceeded thither on the 4th instant, together with Dr. Benson, the Health Officer, the Captain and Surgeon of the *Persian*—in order that they might meet any complaints which might be made—and Mr. George Smith of the Immigration Office; instructions having been given to me to obtain the necessary information for settling the passage-money and gratuities with reference to the performance of conditions, and the supply of provisions, medicines, and medical comforts; to enquire into complaints, and generally into subjects affecting the Immigrants; to ascertain what steps can be taken towards the removal of the healthy Immigrants to Hobart Town, more especially those who have never been attacked with the disease; and also to ascertain whether any cause could be discovered for the existence of the disease on board the ship. Dr. Benson was requested to give me the benefit of his medical opinion on these points; and had also, I believe, instructions to ascertain, as Health Officer, the prospects for removing the Emigrants from Quarantine.

9. On arrival I presented to Mr. Stuart, the Officer in charge of the Station, the letter from the Government requesting his assistance in the objects for which I had come, requested him to collect the Immigrants, and then proceeded to the house of Dr. Eckford, in medical charge of the Station, to whom I showed my instructions; and it was arranged that in the evening I should visit the Hospital and sick in company with Dr. Benson and himself.

I then proceeded at once to take the requisite description-lists of the Immigrants, to ascertain their treatment, and investigate their complaints, which occupied that afternoon and the whole of the next day, as well as the greater part of the Monday following; for I thought it proper to hear anything the people wished to say, and fully to understand their complaints.

10. Very numerous complaints were made regarding the badness of the cookery, in consequence of which the Emigrants lost the benefit of provisions which, it was admitted, were good and abundant—which subject I have already submitted when considering the fitting up of the ship.

These complaints were temperately and candidly advanced, and, in my opinion, the people had cause for them; but in this case there is no remedy, the galley having been passed by the Emigration Officers in England according to law. (See paragraph 7.)

Various complaints were, under the influence of strong feeling, made against the Surgeon, Mr. Gray; and it may be proper that I should advert particularly to some complaints on this head, as well as others which had been forwarded to Hobart Town previous to my departure for Impression Bay, *so far as the subjects of them are not comprehended under general heads*,—and this I beg to do in a paper attached hereto.

The difficulty in forming a positive opinion upon his treatment of individual cases of sickness is increased by the fact that the Surgeon neglected to keep any journal or record of cases, excusing himself on the ground that he was not told to do so, and that no journal had been provided for him. It is, however, certain that very general dissatisfaction has been expressed by the Highland Immigrants in particular, as well as others, being the chief sufferers from disease (from which the Bounty Immigrants were comparatively free), with the youth and inexperience of Mr. Gray, and also with what they consider his levity of manner and want of judgment, as well as of attention, to them. With a recapitulation of these I shall not at present occupy your time, as the statements of the Emigrants have been written down, and can at any time be submitted; but having been almost constantly in Mr. Gray's company for the last eight or nine days, and received his explanations and answers to enquiries relative to these complaints, in which it was very difficult to obtain an explicit or unreserved reply, I entirely concur in the estimate formed of Mr. Gray's character by the Immigrants I have referred to; and finding their statements to be fully borne out, as far as my means of personal observation extend, I am prepared to credit their statements in general with regard to the degree of attention paid by him. Mr. Gray may yet become a valuable practitioner; but he is only twenty-three years of age, and remarkably deficient in sedateness, judgment, and information, and is totally unfit to have the responsible charge of an emigrant ship. He ought never to have ventured to apply for it; and his confirmation is a proof of the absence of care for the lives and welfare of passengers.

It may be said that there is a difficulty in obtaining Surgeons. They should be better paid. £25 from the ship, and the chance of £39 as a gratuity from this Government, is not such an inducement as would lead efficient men to undertake the duties.

These are the conclusions at which Dr. Benson as well as myself have arrived; and our opinion, after hearing the statements of the Emigrants, and the explanations, is, that Mr. Gray has failed in proper attention to the sick, and was totally incompetent to the adoption of measures to prevent the increase of the disease under which they suffered, while their well-grounded want of confidence in him must have increased the depression which is known to be unfavorable in its influence.

It appears also from the statement of Mrs. Spencer, and Mr. Gray's own admission, that he applied for and obtained from her a sovereign as a fee for attendance during her confinement, such a charge being unwarranted by the Regulations and the general practice. It also appears, from his own admission, that the eggs intended for young children stood for a long time open and accessible to all, while complaints have been

made that children did not obtain proper nourishment; and the dietary scale shows that they were to have eggs and other provisions, which it was the duty of the Surgeon not only to allow them, but to see that they got.

Under these circumstances,—however gladly I would avoid it,—I will not shrink from the duty which I consider to appertain to my position; and beg to say, that I cannot recommend the payment of Mr. Gray's gratuity. Had there been a competent and active Surgeon on board, Dr. Benson is of opinion—and I join him in it—that probably many lives would have been saved. A ventilating apparatus might, with very little difficulty, have been constructed on board, if not of metal, still of wood; and a man of greater energy and influence might have had the ship kept cleaner. Fourteen valuable lives have been lost by this disease; and having listened to the accounts of the relatives, and witnessed their distress,—and having within the last few days seen numbers suffering under every stage of the complaint, and two carried to the grave,—I conceive that the appointment of a manifestly incompetent medical man ought not in any way to be sanctioned; and that it is due to the Emigrants, and those interested in them, as well as to the interests of the public in general, to express the opinion I have submitted.

Mr. Gray having been appointed by the proper authorities, and in due course of law, must be regarded as a qualified medical man; but we consider him to have failed in the adoption of measures for the prevention of disease, and that when it did occur he did not devote to it that care and attention which he ought to have done. We think it is to be regretted that those who sanctioned the appointment of Mr. Gray to such a charge cannot be visited with a suitable penalty.

11. A complaint was made by Michael M'Innes, that the second mate, Mr. O'Malley, either himself placed, or assisted in placing, his daughter on the "dead-board" as a frolic; and that he struck the father when complaining to the Captain so as to knock him down, and slightly draw blood from his face, and that he afterwards challenged any of the Highland Emigrants to fight him in this cause.

Captain Kerr states that he was not on deck when this matter commenced; but having come on the poop on hearing some disturbance, the father complained to him, when the mate denied having placed the girl on the board; and the father having made some remark which the mate considered as giving him the lie, he struck at him; but Capt. Kerr, having at the same time laid hold of him to prevent violence, is under the impression that the blow did not take effect. The girl said it was the mate who put her on the board; two Immigrants said the same; and one of them said the mate struck M'Innes twice near the Captain, and knocked him down. The Surgeon saw a sailor named "Coffee," whose presence cannot now be obtained, put the girl on the board, the mate standing near, and all present laughing: he heard the word "lie" used, and the mate would have struck M'Innes but for the Captain; saw what passed on the poop; did not see the mate knock down M'Innes; thinks he must have seen it if done; cannot say whether it was done; saw no blow.

The third mate said he was standing talking with the second mate when the girl was put on the board—by whom he does not know; but the second mate had nothing to do with it. The people said it was the second mate's fault, and ran to the Captain; heard the father call the second mate a liar, who then struck at him, but did not hit him, the Captain having laid hold of him. There was a regular crowd of the Highlanders round the mate; he said "one at a time," and "not all at once"—and challenged them.

Mr. O'Malley himself says, that he did not put the girl on the board, and does not know who did; when he saw that it had been done, he desired the sailors to desist; but it was laughable, and he could not help smiling; the father called him a liar, which caused him to lose his temper, and he struck at him: but the Captain prevented the blow from reaching him.

The whole of the persons appear to have been so much excited as scarcely to be able to say exactly what did occur; the father did not himself see the girl put on the board, being below, and admits that the mate may have considered that he gave him the lie. The sailors had been carrying about on the board one of the crew who was supposed to be shamming illness, and had put the board down: the girl coming in the way was laid upon it, and lifted up for a moment.



Such are the circumstances under which the payment of Mr. O'Malley's gratuity is for decision.

12. With regard to the payment of the other gratuities, I may submit that no complaint whatever has been made against Captain Kerr, of whom the Emigrants speak as having conducted himself towards them with kindness and attention, and in a manner becoming his position. He holds the ship for the owners, and has nothing to do with the supplies put on board by the charterers, except that such as are left become the property of the owners.

The first mate, James Robertson, was, on the 12th October, found by the Surgeon at 10 P.M. in the single women's apartment under the poop, contrary to the Regulations; and being requested by the Surgeon to leave it, he in a state of great excitement declared he would do no more duty in the ship, and was ordered by the Captain to his cabin, and ceased to perform duty. He is a married man with a family; and it is stated by the Captain and the Surgeon that he appears to have taken some hot water to a young woman of respectable character who was indisposed, and they do not attribute improper motives to him. Under these circumstances, the payment of his gratuity is for decision.

No complaints have been made against the third mate, Mr. Moffet, who served out the provisions, or against the Cooks and Hospital Assistant, to the payment of whose gratuities there is therefore no impediment.

A schedule of the gratuities accompanies this Report.

13. On subjects affecting the payment of the Bounty I have the honor to submit, that the supply of Medical comforts does not appear to have been such as required by the Bounty Regulations. No list of Stores appears to have been put on board; and the Captain states that he did not know on sailing what was in the ship. The Surgeon states that he received a mere memorandum of the Medical comforts, which he lost; but both the Captain and Surgeon agree that there were put on board the following quantities, after which are stated the quantities which ought to have been on board, on, say, 280 statute adults:—

2 dozen Brandy	- - - - -	<i>Should have been on board.</i>
2 dozen Port Wine	- - - - -	14 gallons Brandy.
A few bottles of Sherry and Port	- - - - -	5 dozen and 9 Port Wine.
A small case of odds and ends	- - - - -	2 dozen and 10½ Sherry.
23 dozen bottled Porter	} 82 gallons - -	240 gallons Porter.
4 nine-gallon casks ditto		

with sago, arrowroot, groats, &c., in quantities which cannot be stated. Indeed, very little positive information can be obtained from the Surgeon on this or any other subject.

The Medical comforts, therefore, appear to have been very deficient, and this accounts for the difficulty in obtaining wine and spirits described by the emigrants; but there was abundance of oatmeal, flour, and rice on board; and there is no reason to suppose that there would have been any objection on the part of the Captain to supply what the Surgeon might have applied for.

In the course of enquiry it appeared that the preserved milk put on board as Medical comforts was in general unfit for use; also, that the preserved "Bouillie," called by others preserved meat, was frequently bad,—though, whenever found to be so, it was thrown overboard, and more issued. I have, on former occasions, submitted the objections felt by emigrants to preserved meat, of the preparation of which they are doubtful, and which may indeed be a perfect abomination, a great part of the contents of the cases frequently consisting of gelatine or fat, and I do not at all wonder at the repugnance to it.

Measures should, I consider, be taken to provide that the cases should be filled with MEAT, and from certain manufacturers known to be trustworthy.

It appears also that the Surgeon was not *required* to keep a Journal, as directed by the conditions of payment, and also that a Matron was not appointed to take charge of the single women. On the latter head the Captain explains, that he was never informed that he had the power to appoint either a Matron or a female Hospital Assistant, otherwise he would gladly have appointed both; and that the Bounty Tickets, from which he might have obtained information, were given to him sealed up, and not opened till I enquired for them, after arrival.

14. As, in addition to the subjects I have submitted, it has been represented in a letter from one of the Immigrants published in the newspapers that there was no passengers' steward on board, the man shipped as such having been sent before the mast,—and also that, in the opinion of the writer, constables should have been appointed to make the people clean their berths,—I may beg to mention, that on the first point I have a letter from Captain Kerr explaining that the passengers' steward, Peter Murphy, was by mistake put on the ship's articles as able seaman, and another seaman as passengers' steward, but that Peter Murphy did duty as passengers' steward, and had no other duty during the voyage but attendance on the passengers; and that Philip Bevan, the seaman who was on the articles as passengers' steward, has been discharged from the ship, is now in Hobart Town, and can certify to the above statement, which the man has since done.

With regard to the appointment of constables, I may observe that this is not required by the Passengers Act, and that no gratuity is allowed by this Government for such persons; the chief reason being that the Government has not the appointment of the Surgeon, and does not specially charter the ships as is done by the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, who are consequently able to enforce their own Regulations. This plan has been found to answer sufficiently for Bounty Emigrants; and if the Highland Emigrants were sent out without any special provision for their management, the authorities at home who so despatched them are alone responsible. Trustworthy constables, under an efficient Surgeon, might certainly have been useful.

15. Dr. Benson and myself separated from the rest the families in which fever had never occurred, and the single people always healthy,—who, to the number of 86, were transferred to the Cascades Station; and 16 single women will follow as soon as the sailors of the *Persian* have been withdrawn. These will, of course, be transferred to Hobart Town as soon as safety permits, and their places be then taken by others.

16. The disease has been chiefly among the Highland Emigrants, the Bounty Emigrants having been comparatively little affected.

17. I saw the Immigrants at their meals, and inspected the kitchen and bakehouse. Some of the potatoes were bad, but were condemned, and others obtained. The meat, bread, and other supplies were good, and a baker had been obtained from Port Arthur; one of the Emigrants also acting as such. The soup appearing thin, I requested that barley or other thickening should be allowed, which was done. The people made no complaints on this head, and showed every disposition to be satisfied.

18. On the whole, I was much pleased with what I consider the temperate and reasonable manner in which their representations were made; and it was impossible not to feel strong sympathy with the sufferings and distress they had endured, and the inconvenience and loss sustained by themselves, as well as by others, to whom no blame could attach.

Doubtless the extent of the disease may be in great degree attributed to the neglect of proper precautions by many of the Emigrants themselves, but they were not aware of the necessity for them.

I beg to submit to notice Mary Leahy, Margaret Bevan, and Margaret Dougherty,—three Bounty passengers,—who have acted as nurses in the Female Hospital at Impresion Bay, when probably no others could have been obtained. They have been recommended for payment by Dr. Eckford, and will doubtless obtain it. From me they asked nothing but a few clothes to supply the place of those worn out in Hospital, which, with the sanction of the Government, have been sent to them. There are persons to whom the acknowledgment of services is more welcome than pecuniary recompense, and they are well entitled to both.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

JOHN D. LOCH, *Immigration Agent.*

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*