

1852.

VICTORIA.

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EMIGRATION FROM THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS OF  
SCOTLAND.

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*Ordered by the Council to be printed, 29th December, 1852.*

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C. J. LA TROBE,

*Message No. 47.*

*Lieutenant Governor.*

REFERRING to former Messages on the subject of Immigration, the Lieutenant Governor transmits, for the information of the Council, the copy of a Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, giving cover to certain documents respecting a Society which has been established for assisting Emigration from the Western Highlands and Islands of Scotland to Australia.

*Government Offices,*

*Melbourne, 29th December, 1852.*

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(No. 46.)

SIR,

Downing Street, 31st July, 1852.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a letter from Sir Charles Trevelyan, as Chairman of the Society which has been established for assisting Emigration from the Western Highlands and Islands of Scotland to Australia, and in compliance with the desire therein expressed, I have to request that you will take such measures as you may think best for assisting the Agents of the Society, in the Colony under your Government, in obtaining employment at the full current rate of wages, for the Highland Emigrants, in pastoral and agricultural pursuits; and in recovering from them, by periodical deductions from their wages, the sums advanced by the Society to enable the Emigrants to defray their deposits and outfits, for the repayment of which the respective heads of families have given their Promissory Notes.

I have the honour, &c.

(Signed) J. S. PAKINGTON.

Lieutenant Governor La Trobe,

&c., &c., &c.

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SIR C. TREVELYAN TO THE RIGHT HON. SIR J. PAKINGTON.

4, St. Martin's Place, July 29, 1852.

SIR,

SINCE you did Sir J. McNeill and me the honor of listening to our statement of the motives which have induced us to support the Society which has been established for assisting emigration from the Western Highlands and Islands of Scotland to Australia, the plan has been matured and brought into successful operation; and the Society has obtained, in a very satisfactory degree, the confidence of the public and of the population more immediately affected by it.

Emigrants from the Hebrides have sailed or will sail in a few days to Australia, with the assistance of our Society, as follows :—

Ship.	Date of Sailing.	Destination.	No. of Emigrants.
Medina - - - -	June 25	Adelaide - - - -	54
Araminta - - - -	„ 26	Geelong - - - -	194
Georgiana - - - -	July 13	Geelong - - - -	372
Ontario - - - -	„ 31	Sydney - - - - about	330
Marmion - - - -	August	Moreton Bay - - - -	250
			1,200

I inclose a series of printed Papers which will place you in possession of all the leading points connected with this undertaking; and I would especially call your attention to the list of Emigrant Families who sailed for Port Phillip on board the “Georgiana,” from page 79 to 86, and the statement of the proportions of the different ages and sexes, at page 87.

My immediate object in addressing you is, to request on behalf of the Committee of the Highland and Island Emigration Society, that the object and plan of the Society may be communicated to the Governors of the several Australian Colonies, and especially to the Governors of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, to which ships containing bodies of emigrants assisted by our Society have already sailed; and that the respective Governors may be instructed to take such measures as they may think best, to assist our agents in obtaining employment, at the full current rate of wages, for the Highland emigrants, in *pastoral* and *agricultural* pursuits, and in recovering from them, by periodical deductions from their wages, the sums advanced by our Society to enable them to defray their deposits and outfits, for the re-payment of which the respective heads of families have given their promissory notes. The instructions which have been furnished to our agents will be found at page 119 of the correspondence.

The people in the Hebrides and on the adjoining mainland of Scotland are pressing in greater numbers than ever to be sent to Australia; but their means have been so exhausted by the breaking down of the system of society founded upon Potato cultivation, that they cannot, without assistance, pay their deposits and outfits, which average about £3 a head. If, therefore, the Colonial Governors and Houses of Assembly consider that the emigration of this class of people, in whole families containing equal proportions of both sexes, will be for their advantage, or are disposed, on grounds of humanity, to assist them, there is no way in which they could promote the object so effectually as by securing the prompt re-payment of the sums advanced by our Society, in order that they may be again employed, at the earliest practicable period, in enabling other families from the distressed districts to emigrate to the same Colonies.

The names of our Agents in the Colonies are :—

*Sydney*.—Robert How and John Walker.

*Melbourne*.—Thomas Dickens and John Oswald Gilchrist.

*Adelaide*—Alexander Lang Elder, George Elder, junr., and William Elder.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) C. E. TREVELYAN.

The Right Hon. Sir J. Pakington, Bart.,  
Secretary of State for Colonial Affairs.

# HIGHLAND AND ISLAND EMIGRATION SOCIETY.

PATRON :

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ALBERT.

COMMITTEE :

The RIGHT HON. THE LORD MAYOR.

The GOVERNOR OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

His Grace The Duke of Buccleuch.  
The Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury.  
The Hon. Arthur Kinnaid, M.P.  
The Hon. F. Scott, M.P.  
Sir Charles Forbes, Bt.  
Sir Charles Trevelyan, K.C.B.  
Col. Sir Duncan MacDougal.  
T. Baring, Esq., M.P.  
E. Cardwell, Esq., M.P.  
Charles Cowan, Esq., M.P.  
Baron L. de Rothschild, M.P.  
Mr. Alderman Salomons, M.P.  
W. Benson, Esq.  
C. Buxton, Esq.

Mr. Sheriff Fraser, of Skye.  
W. T. Haly, Esq.  
Henry Kingscote, Esq.  
Mac Leod of Mac Leod.  
J. M. Mac Leod, Esq., of St. Kilda.  
The Rev. H. Mackenzie, Vicar of St. Martin-in-the-Fields.  
Cluny MacPherson, of Cluny.  
Bonamy Price, Esq.  
W. G. Prescott, Esq.  
J. Skey, Esq., M.D.  
George Robert Smith, Esq.  
Samuel George Smith, Jun., Esq.

TREASURER :

The HON. ARTHUR KINNAIRD, M.P.

SECRETARY :

J. B. STANDISH HALY, Esq.

OFFICE :

4, ST. MARTIN'S PLACE, TRAFALGAR SQUARE.

THE attention of the benevolent British Public has long been awakened to the lamentable destitution prevailing in the Island of Skye and other overpopulated Highland and Island districts. For five years past a great part of the people of these districts has been supported out of that portion of the munificent subscription raised in the winter of 1846-7, for the relief of the Famine in Ireland and Scotland, which has been administered by the Edinburgh and Glasgow Relief Committees.

This Fund is now exhausted, and the condition of the people remains unimproved. They cannot support themselves in the land of their fathers; and the hardy and loyal Highlander is in danger of being converted into a professional mendicant.

There is need of a complete and final remedy.

Happily there are in other parts of Queen Victoria's dominions, favoured climes, where the labor which at home has no field for its employment will become highly productive and remunerative. They who are a burden to the British community in the mother-country, will become a support to it when they have been transferred to the colonies. Instead of living on our alms, they will give valuable equivalents for our manufactures; and, above all, they will exchange a life of demoralising dependence for one which will abound with the rewards of industry and enterprise.

It has been ascertained that a large proportion of this redundant population, seeing no other prospect of escape from misery, are desirous of emigrating to Australia; and it is proposed to assist these poor people to proceed thither, or, as may be hereafter determined, to other British Colonies, by means of a Fund to be raised by subscription, and to be administered according to the following Rules:

1. The emigration will be conducted, as much as possible, by entire families, and in accordance with the rules of the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners.
2. Passages to Australia are provided by the Commissioners, from Colonial Funds, for able-bodied men and women of good character, and not exceeding a specified age, with a certain proportion of children, on production of a stated quantity and description of clothing, and on payment of a deposit of from 1*l.* to 2*l.* for adults, and 10*s.* for children. For persons exceeding a specified age, a larger amount of deposit is required.

The emigrants asking for aid will be required to apply all their available means to defraying the expense of their outfit and deposits.

3. The Society will advance the sum necessary to make good whatever may be deficient for these purposes, as far as its funds will admit, in the Districts to which it may be determined to extend its operations.
4. The owners or trustees of the properties from which the emigrants depart, will be expected to pay one-third of the sum disbursed on account of the emigrants by the Society. The emigrants will be required to repay to the Society the whole of the sums advanced to them, which will again be applied in the same manner as the original fund.

The Committee cannot but urge the great benefits which must accrue on every side from such a mode of relief.

The destitute portion of the population of the distressed districts will be placed in a position of comfort and independence; the Colonies will be benefited by the immigration of a moral and industrious population, whose tastes are peculiarly congenial to the pastoral life of Australia; the general course of emigration will be improved by the prominence given in the plan of colonization by unbroken families, including at least an equal proportion of females; and the industrial schemes contemplated for the improvement of Agriculture in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and of the Fisheries on their coasts, may be carried out with far more freedom and better prospects of success when the surplus population has been removed.

His Royal Highness Prince Albert has been graciously pleased to express his approbation of the object and plan of the Committee, and has given them full authority to announce his willing acquiescence to become patron of the undertaking.

Subscriptions are received at the following Bankers:—

*At the West End.*

Messrs. Bouverie, Murdoch and James, 11, Haymarket.

Messrs. Coutts and Co., Strand.

Messrs. Drummond, Charing Cross.

Messrs. Herries and Co., 1, St. James's Street.

Messrs. Ransom and Co., 1, Pall Mall East.

*In the City.*

Messrs. Prescott, Grote and Co., Threadneedle Street.

Messrs. Smith, Payne and Co., Lombard Street.

Messrs. Williams, Deacon and Co., Birchin Lane.

And at the Office of the Committee, 4, St. Martin's Place, Trafalgar Square, where every information as to the details of the plan will be afforded.

MAY, 1852.

The plan of the Society, which is based upon a just apportionment of the burden among all the parties concerned—the colony, the emigrant, and the landowner from whose estate he departs—has now been organized in all its details; and two companies of emigrants, consisting one of 54 and the other of 194 souls, have left Skye for Australia.

The Emigration Commissioners have placed shipping at the disposal of the Society, as underneath; and the Agents of the Society are actively engaged, in conjunction with an officer of the Emigration Commissioners, in selecting emigrant families from the estates of those Proprietors who have agreed to pay their proportion of the expense.

Ships' Names.	Port of Departure.	Destination.	Date to be ready.	Number of Passages allotted for Emigrants from Skye.
Miltiades .....	Liverpool .....	Melbourne ...	June 30	150
Georgiana .....	Glasgow .....	Geelong .....	July 3	260
John Gray .....	Liverpool .....	Sydney.....	July 8	75
Chance .....	Liverpool .....	Melbourne ...	July 14	100
Flora .....	Liverpool .....	Geelong .....	July 15	50

635 Adults, equal to at least 800 souls.

And other arrangements are in progress, by which a much larger number of passages will shortly become available for emigrants from the Western Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

As, according to the plan of the Society, advances have to be made, not only for the deposit and outfit of all the members of each emigrant family, but also for paying the passages of those members who are ineligible for free passages, according to the rules of the Emigration Commissioners, it is feared that the amount already subscribed will not provide for the emigration of more than about one thousand persons; and the Committee therefore earnestly request that those who foresee in the success of this undertaking, important benefits to the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, to Australia, and to the entire British community, will forthwith make such donations to the fund of the Society as they are able.

JUNE, 1852.

SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen	300	0	0	C. F. (per Messrs. Drummonds)	10	0	0
His Royal Highness the Prince Albert, K.G.	105	0	0	Cameron, D., Esq., of Lochiel	5	0	0
His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch, K.G.	100	0	0	Campbell, Col. Andrew	1	1	0
His Grace the Duke of Argyll	100	0	0	Campbell, Donald, Esq.	10	0	0
His Grace the Duke of Sutherland, K.G.	100	0	0	Canning, Lady	5	0	0
The Marquis and Marchioness of Stafford—				Cardwell, E., Esq., M.P.	10	0	0
(1st Subscription)	20	0	0	Carlisle, The Very Rev. the Dean of	5	0	0
Ditto ditto (2nd Subscription)	150	0	0	Carnegie, Lady	5	0	0
The Countess of Dunmore	100	0	0	Carruthers, P., Esq.	2	0	0
The Dowager Lady Forbes, of Newe, N. B.	100	0	0	Chambers, R., Esq.	1	1	0
Sir James Matheson, Bart., M.P.	150	0	0	Champion, Miss E.	5	0	0
Alexander Matheson, Esq., M.P.	150	0	0	Chantrey, Lady	10	10	0
The Right Hon. the Earl of Derby	50	0	0	Chisholm, The	5	0	0
The Right Hon. and Right Rev. the Lord				Clark, Sir James, Bart.	5	0	0
Bishop of London	25	0	0	Clifford, Colonel	1	0	0
Her Grace the Duchess of Norfolk	25	0	0	Clinton, Dowager Lady	2	0	0
The Lady Willoughby de Eresby	25	0	0	Cochrane, Vice-Admiral Sir T.	10	0	0
Part of a sum of £2,600 raised by subscrip-				Coffin, Mrs. General Pine	1	0	0
tion in Australia at the period of the				Coffin, Miss Pine	1	0	0
famine of 1846-7, for <i>Relief by Emigra-</i>				Collection at St. Matthew's Chapel, Spring			
tion, by the Hon. Francis Scott, M.P.	500	0	0	Gardens, after a Sermon by the Bishop			
Part of the balance of a sum subscribed in				of Argyll and the Isles	36	11	1
1848, for the relief of British workmen				Collection at Stockwell Chapel	5	2	3
expelled from France	500	0	0	Collection at St. Thomas's Church, New-			
The Australian Agricultural Company	200	0	0	castle-upon-Tyne, per the Rev. R. Clay-			
Baring, Thomas, Esq., M.P.	50	0	0	ton	20	0	0
Coffin, Sir Edward Pine (Commissary Gen.)	50	0	0	Collier, J. P., Esq.	1	0	0
Elphinstone, Hon. Mountstuart (1st Sub.)	10	0	0	Colquhoun, J. C., Esq.	5	0	0
Ditto (2nd Sub.)	50	0	0	Cowper, Right Hon. Earl	10	0	0
Jervoise, Sir Samuel Clarke, Bart.	50	0	0	Craigie, Capt., R.N.	5	0	0
Jones, Loyd and Co., Messrs.	50	0	0	Crawford, Colvin and Co., Messrs.	5	0	0
Prescott, Grote and Co., Messrs.	50	0	0	Cropper, Edward, Esq.	25	0	0
Rothschild, N. M. and Sons, Messrs.	50	0	0	Cropper, John, Esq.	25	0	0
Smith, Payne and Smiths, Messrs.	50	0	0	Cumming, Rev. J., D.D.	5	0	0
Malmesbury, the Right Hon. the Earl of	25	0	0	Cure, Capel, Esq.	5	0	0
Pakington, The Right Hon. Sir John,				Dalmeny, The Lady	5	0	0
Bart., M.P.	25	0	0	Davis, Sir John F., Bart., F.R.S.	1	0	0
Walpole, The Right Hon. Spencer, M.P.	20	0	0	Davis, Hart, Esq.	5	0	0
A. A.	0	6	0	Denison, Lady Charlotte	3	0	0
Acland, Sir T. Dyke, Bart., M.P.	5	0	0	Dixon, Capt. M., R.N.	0	10	0
Adair, Lady, for the Isle of Skye	5	0	0	"Do as you would be done by"	1	0	0
Adams, J. H., Esq.	10	0	0	Dorrien, Misses	3	0	0
A Friend (per Messrs. Drummonds)	27	7	5	Dundas, Robert, Esq.	2	0	0
Anonymous (ditto) for the Isle of Skye	10	0	0	Elliott, Mrs.	2	0	0
A Lady	1	0	0	Ellis, George H., Esq.	5	5	0
Andover, the Viscountess (for Skye)	15	0	0	Ellison, Rev. Noel T.	1	0	0
A Barrister (ditto)	5	0	0	Erle, Sir William	5	0	0
A Friend (ditto)	5	0	0	Farrer, James, Esq., M.P.	5	5	0
A Highland Servant (ditto)	5	0	0	Ferguson, Dr.	20	0	0
A Swiss Friend (ditto)	1	0	0	Foley, Lady Emily	5	0	0
"A Widow's Mite" (ditto)	1	0	0	Forbes, Sir Charles, Bart.	10	10	0
Anonymous (per MacLeod of MacLeod)	5	0	0	Foster, George H., Esq.	10	0	0
Anonymous, for Skye (per Secretary)	5	0	0	Foster, James, Esq.	10	0	0
Argyll and the Isles, The Bishop of	10	0	0	Fuller, Hugh, Esq.	1	0	0
Arnand, E., Esq.	3	0	0	Gardner, P., Esq.	5	0	0
Arnot, Miss	1	0	0	Gawen, Mrs.	2	0	0
Baillie, Henry, Esq., M.P.	10	0	0	Goldie, John, Esq.	10	0	0
Bampton, Rev. John	1	0	0	Grant, Miss Sebylla	5	0	0
B Barclay and Co., Messrs.	10	0	0	Gulliford, Mr. B. B.	0	5	0
Barker, William, Esq.	3	3	0	H.	1	0	0
Beaufort, Dowager Duchess of	1	0	0	Hamilton, Andrew, Esq.	10	0	0
Begsley, Dr.	1	1	0	Hamilton, Claude, Esq.	2	2	0
Benson, William, Esq.	21	0	0	Hankey, Thomson, Jun., Esq.	10	0	0
Blair, Mrs. E. C.	20	0	0	Hardwicke, Capt., The Earl of, R.N.	10	0	0
Blair, Mrs. Lambert	20	0	0	Harper, Mrs.	0	10	0
Blake, John G., Esq.	5	0	0	Harrison and Son, Messrs.	5	0	0
Bogue, Adam, Esq.	10	0	0	Herschel, Sir John, Bart.	5	0	0
Boucher, John, Esq.	10	10	0	Heywood, Messrs., Sir Benjamin, Bart.,			
Bovill, Miss	2	0	0	and Co., Manchester	10	0	0
Bridge, Rev. Stephen	15	0	0	Heywood, Arthur H., Esq., Manchester	10	0	0
Bridge, Rev. Stephen (2nd Payment)	57	3	0	Hibbert, N., Esq., Watford	10	0	0
Bridge, Rev. Stephen (3rd Payment)	33	0	0	H. J. L.	0	5	0
Bridge, Rev. Stephen (4th Payment)	5	5	0	Holford, Robert Stayner, Esq.	5	0	0
Bromley, R. W., Esq.	1	1	0	H. S.	5	0	0
Burchett, J. R., Esq.	5	0	0	Hughan, Mrs.	10	0	0
Burrowes, Rev. H. N.	5	0	0	Jackson, William, Esq.	5	0	0
Buxton, Charles, Esq.	20	0	0	Janson, Frederick H., Esq.	5	5	0
Buxton, Sir Edward N., Bart.	10	0	0	J. B.	10	10	0
				Jeffery, J., Esq. (for Skye)	5	0	0

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Kelly, Sir Fitzroy, Her Majesty's Solicitor General	10	0	0	Robertson, William, Esq.	5	0	0
Kenyon, John, Esq.	25	0	0	Robinson, H. Crabb, Esq.	1	1	0
Kidd, R. C., Esq.	3	0	0	Robinson, Marmaduke, Esq.	2	0	0
Kinnaird, Hon. Arthur, M.P.	10	10	0	Robinson, Mrs. Ed.	1	1	0
Kinnaird, Right Hon. Lord	5	0	0	Rollinson, Miss	2	0	0
Kirkland, Sir John, Bart.	10	0	0	Rose, H. B., Esq.	5	0	0
Labouchere, John, Esq.	10	0	0	Roseberry, Right Hon. Earl of	10	0	0
Langton, Rev. Charles and Mrs.	10	0	0	Rothery, H. C., Esq.	10	0	0
Lean, J. S., Esq.	2	0	0	Rothery, William, Esq.	5	0	0
Le Bas, C. T., Esq.	1	0	0	Rous, Rev. George	5	0	0
Lethbridge, A. G., Esq.	2	2	0	Russell, Right Hon. Lord John, M.P.	5	0	0
Long, W., Esq., Mayor of Bath	1	1	0	Ryan, Sir Edward	10	10	0
L. J. P.	1	10	0	Salomons, David, Esq., Aldn. and M.P.	21	0	0
Ludlow, Lieutenant Colonel	1	0	0	Sandeman, Hugh F., Esq.	5	5	0
Macaulay, C. Z., Esq.	3	0	0	Shaw, Benjamin, Esq.	5	0	0
Macaulay, Kenneth, Esq., Q.C.	21	0	0	Shaw, Sir John, Bart.	10	0	0
Macaulay, Right Hon. T. B.	10	0	0	Sibthorp, Mrs. Waldo	2	0	0
Macbean, Mr. A. J. D.	1	0	0	Simes, N. P., Esq.	5	0	0
MacDougal, Col. Sir Duncan	5	0	0	Simpkinson, Rev. J.	5	0	0
MacInnes, Lieutenant General	5	0	0	Singleton, Lady Mary	5	0	0
Mackenzie, Rev. C.	5	0	0	Sitwell, J. R., Esq.	10	0	0
Mackenzie, Right Hon. Holt	10	0	0	Skey, Dr.	1	1	0
MacLeod, J. M., Esq., of St. Kilda	25	0	0	Skey, Dr. (2nd Subscription)	1	1	0
MacLeod, Lieutenant General Chas.	10	0	0	Smith, Henry Porter, Esq.	2	0	0
MacLeod, Major W.	5	0	0	St. David's, The Lord Bishop of	10	0	0
MacPherson, Chuny, of Cluny	5	0	0	Stewart, Captain	2	0	0
MacPherson, Richard, Esq.	5	5	0	Stewart, Charles E., Esq.	21	0	0
Macqueen, Captain L.	3	0	0	Stickney, Thomas, Esq. (Deputy Commis-			
M. B. (per Messrs. Willis and Co.)	3	0	0	sary General)	5	0	0
McGrigor, Sir James, Bart.	10	0	0	Stoddart, Captain, R.N.	0	10	0
McKirdy, J. G., Esq.	5	0	0	Stone, Samuel, Esq.	1	1	0
Maltby, Mrs.	5	0	0	Stuart, Lord James, M.P.	10	0	0
Mandeville, The Viscount, M.P.	5	0	0	Taylor, William, Esq.	5	0	0
Mangles, Ross D., Esq., M.P.	2	2	0	Telford, Misses, per F. T. Ellis, Esq.	5	0	0
Martin, Ronald James, Esq.	10	10	0	Todd, Mrs. E.	1	0	0
Martin, Sir Henry	2	0	0	Tooke, T., Esq., F.R.S.	2	0	0
"Mary Ann" (for Skye)	0	10	0	Trevelyan, Major	1	0	0
Mayor, The Right Hon. the Lord	5	5	0	Trevelyan, Mrs.	5	0	0
Melville, The Hon. W. L.	10	0	0	Trevelyan, Miss	2	0	0
Miller, W., Esq., Commissary General	5	0	0	Trevelyan, Raleigh, Esq.	1	1	0
Monkland, Mrs. E.	0	10	0	Trevelyan, Sir Walt. Calverley, Bart.	10	0	0
Moore, James Carriek, Esq.	5	5	0	Trevelyan, Rev. E. O.	1	0	0
Morgan, J. M., Esq.	5	0	0	Trevelyan, Sir Charles E., K.C.B.	20	0	0
Murchison, Sir R. J.	10	0	0	Trevelyan, W. P., Esq.	5	0	0
Murray, Lady Elizabeth A.	2	0	0	Trevelyan, Mrs. W. P.	1	0	0
North, Mrs.	5	0	0	Truro, The Lady	10	0	0
Oakes, Mrs.	2	2	0	Tulloch, James, Esq.	5	0	0
Osborn, Sir G., Bart.	1	0	0	Turner, Cecil, Esq.	5	0	0
Osborne, Hon. and Rev. S. G., and Mrs.				Turnor, Thomas, Esq.	5	0	0
Osborne	20	0	0	Upcher, The Hon. Mrs.	5	0	0
Otto, Colonel	10	0	0	Valiant, Lady	2	2	0
Oxford, remitted from, through Messrs.				Vaughan, Rev. Dr. (Harrow)	5	5	0
Robinson, Parsons and Co.	15	0	0	Vincent, Jacob, Esq.	2	2	0
Page, Thomas, Esq.	1	1	0	Wakefield, Miss M.	5	0	0
Parke, Right Hon. Sir James	10	0	0	Walker, James, Esq.	10	10	0
Peers, Charles, Esq.	2	0	0	Walker, Rev. Josiah, D.C.L.	3	0	0
Peers, Mrs.	1	6	0	Walker, William, Esq.	20	0	0
Penrhyn, Edward, Esq.	10	0	0	Ward, The Misses	2	0	0
Perceval, E. A., Esq.	5	0	0	Warden of New College, Oxford	5	0	0
Perceval, Hon. Mrs.	2	0	0	Watson, Joshua, Esq.	5	0	0
Percy, Hon. Mrs.	5	0	0	Watson, Rev. W.	0	10	0
Petrie, Samuel, Esq.	3	3	0	Webb, Captain, R.E.	5	0	0
Pocock, William, Esq.	1	0	0	Wedgwood, Miss E. S.	1	0	0
Pole, Captain George	1	1	0	W. E. S.	20	0	0
Pole, C. W., Esq.	0	10	0	Wigram, Colonel Ely	5	0	0
Pole, Frederick, Esq.	1	0	0	Wigram, Loftus, Esq.	5	0	0
Pole, Mrs. George	1	0	0	Wild, Mr.	48	9	0
Pope, Rev. E.	1	1	0	Wilson, Benjamin, Esq.	5	0	0
Portal, Miss	30	0	0	Wood, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles, Bart., M.P.	10	0	0
Postage Stamps	0	1	0	Wood, Sir William Page, Knt., M.P.	10	10	0
Potter, Mrs.	2	0	0	Wood, Rev. James	0	10	0
Price, Bonamy, Esq.	5	0	0	Woodburn, Major	2	0	0
Price, H. R., and Pott, Messrs.	5	5	0	W. P.	3	3	0
Radley, Mrs., by Miss Wrench	5	0	0	Young, Wm. Blackman, Esq.	2	0	0
Rawlinson, Robert, Esq.	1	1	0				
Richardson, James, Esq.	1	1	0				
				Total	£5,007	3	7

EMIGRATION  
FROM THE  
HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS  
OF  
SCOTLAND.

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I.

MR. FRASER, SHERIFF-SUBSTITUTE OF SKYE, TO THE AGENTS OF THE  
MCLEOD, McDONALD, AND SKEABOST PROPERTIES.

No. 1.

TO JOHN SMITH, ESQ., AGENT OF THE MCLEOD PROPERTY.

December 8, 1851.

MR. McASKILL, Rhuendunan, promised to write to you, requesting your support, as trustee on the McLeod estate, of an Emigration Society recently established here. I enclose a printed statement and address issued by the acting Committee, and may add that the movement is not only supported by persons of all classes in the island, but has excited much attention amongst the people to the subject of emigration. About 130 families, representing perhaps from 600 to 700 individuals, have already given in their names as willing to go to Australia, provided we can procure the means of sending them. I have been in communication with the Emigration Commissioners, who are disposed to reconsider their regulations as to deposits, with the view of increasing the facilities for the emigration of entire families; and all we now require is funds.

For the necessary pecuniary support we must depend chiefly on public subscriptions; but it is an indispensable preliminary to a successful appeal to public liberality, that those more immediately interested should contribute in some proportion to the advantage which they may expect to derive from the movement.

The benefits of emigration to proprietors of over-peopled estates is too obvious to require argument; but, though equally beneficial to creditors in possession of such estates, yet, as in their case, an advance of money to secure the advantage cannot be made without difficulty, it may be necessary to show that the advantage is such as to make it imprudent to forego it.

The depreciation of the value of Highland estates, rendering them at present almost unsaleable, is owing more to the existence of destitution in the Highlands, and the cry to which it gives rise, than to any other cause; nor can Highland property be expected to attain its fair value in the market until that cry is at an end. For the existing evils of the country, such an

emigration as we have every prospect of carrying through, if efficiently supported, appears to be, if not the best, at least the most immediate and available remedy; yet it is a remedy that cannot be applied by individual proprietors without giving rise to clamours and complaints of evictions that tend very materially to render Highland property unpopular as an investment. Under the auspices of such a Society as ours aversion to emigration is in a great measure obviated, and jealousy of the motives of its promoters disarmed, and it comes to be regarded as a boon. If, then, it be an important advantage to all interested in Highland property to relieve destitution by the removal of a part of a population generally considered superabundant, without incurring the odium of eviction, and the charge of compulsory expatriation of the people, I think you will agree with me that it is decidedly for the interest of creditors holding property in Skye to promote our scheme by pecuniary aid.

There is a rumour in circulation, and one, I believe, not wholly without foundation, that Government contemplate the imposition locally of an able-bodied Poor Law; and it is not improbable that the manifestation of any unwillingness on the part of holders of property in the distressed districts to originate or co-operate in measures of relief by means of emigration or otherwise, may precipitate such a measure. It is not for me to speculate upon its probable effects in other respects, but as I am by no means assured that the present willingness of the people to emigrate would continue after such a measure had been propounded, I think it highly desirable that no time should be lost in putting us in possession of funds to make a beginning. Should it unfortunately happen that the administrators for creditors are unable to make the advances which the exigencies of the Country seem to require, it will certainly afford an argument either for an able-bodied Poor Law, or for some measures to necessitate sales of encumbered estates at whatever sacrifice may be required to secure purchasers.

I have to apologise for the freedom with which I have stated what has occurred to me in this matter, but its importance seemed to demand it.

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## No. 2.

TO JAMES BROWN, ESQ., AGENT OF THE McDONALD PROPERTY.

December 23, 1851.

I HAVE to acknowledge your esteemed favour of the 20th, in much of which I fully coincide with you.

The benefit to the Proprietors should not influence *us*, but it ought certainly to be borne in mind by them, in determining the amount of aid which they ought to extend to our undertaking; for what might be a reasonable subscription from one having only a benevolent object in view, may fall far short of what is reasonable when coming from one who, in addition to the benevolent object, has also a pecuniary advantage to gain by the undertaking. *Debitor non presumitur donare*; and I am afraid that if I were to offer a subscription of £5 to an undertaking of public utility and benevolence, but which was also to benefit me peculiarly to the extent of £100, my subscription would scarcely be deemed a reasonable one, or imputed to public spirit or benevolence. It might even be misrepresented as "giving a sprat to catch a whale," and as taking advantage of the disinterested liberality of others to obtain a private advantage that otherwise I should have to pay for.

I am quite of Sir John McNeill's opinion as to the perfect fairness of expecting the landlords to contribute sums in some degree commensurate with the advantages to be derived by them; and I do not think that Sir John has over-estimated their share of the advantage as equivalent to one-half of the cost. This, however, is considering the matter on the ground of equity, but when the question of ability to contribute is taken into account, I admit that we must be satisfied in some cases with a smaller amount of assistance.

I am not afraid that any reasonable amount of subscription from proprietors would subject the scheme to the imputation of being at bottom a landlord's move; and we have now made such progress with the people that jealousy of the movement on their part is no longer to be apprehended: but there is one danger which I think is a formidable one, and which you do not seem to have taken into account, namely, that when our appeal and subscription-list come to be published, the public may look upon the whole as a thinly-disguised plot to shift the expense of emigration from the Proprietors on to the public, and to save the former from all but a nominal outlay at the expense of the contributions of the benevolent.

I beg you to understand that I do not make these remarks with reference to the amount which you propose that Lord McDonald should contribute, and of course still less with reference to the very handsome sum which you individually offer, but simply in reply to the general argument in your letter. But here I must refer to a particular matter on which it is necessary that some understanding should be come to, as otherwise the recurrence of such cases may lead to misconstruction and strictures unfavourable both to the Proprietors and to our Society. The only family whom we have yet assisted is that of a poor man from the Point of Sleat. It consisted of the man himself, his wife, and eight children. He was the first that came forward, and in consequence I promised that he should be the first we would assist when we got funds. As he was a tenant, I expected that his own means would be available to some extent. He told me, however, that his only cow had been sold for rent, and that all he had was some articles of furniture and a little crop which might produce £9, if he could get away at once, but which would necessarily be consumed if he were obliged to remain for the winter. I mentioned his



case to the Emigration Commissioners, and they having agreed to take the family for £8, the man was sent for; but when he came again and was asked about the produce of his crop, &c., on which we reckoned as going so far to meet the expense, we found that it had indeed fetched the £9 as expected, but that the factor had retained £4 15s. 6d. of that sum to clear his rental account, and that the balance had been expended in procuring clothing for his family, but had been insufficient for that purpose, so that we must advance not only the whole passage-money, but £2 more to supplement his clothing. I do not mean to question here the propriety of the proceeding; and I am willing to admit, that if the Proprietors, on the one hand, contribute directly all that can reasonably be expected from them, they ought not, on the other hand, to be expected to contribute further indirectly in the abandonment of their legal demands. But if Proprietors are not to contribute directly as such, and are also to exact to the uttermost their claims, though, as in the Sleat case, to the effect of depriving intending emigrants even of the means of clothing themselves for the voyage, I am afraid that the effect on the public mind will not be favourable either to Proprietors or to our scheme. The public will be apt to compare such an amount of support to our scheme with the inducement to emigrate offered to his people only last year by the proprietor of the comparatively small estate of Straithaird, who was willing to abandon all claims for arrears, to let his people convert their stock for their own benefit, and to advance £1200 to them over and above to help them to meet their expenses. I should not be surprised were the falling off attributed to expectations connected with the formation of our Society, and interpreted as corroborative of the suspicion alluded to in a former part of this letter.

I write in much haste, which I beg you to excuse, and I remain, &c.

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No. 3.

TO ROBERT CHRISTIE, ESQ., AGENT OF THE SKEABOST PROPERTY.

January 6, 1852.

I AM favoured with yours of the 2nd instant, in answer to my letter to you of the 6th ultimo, and regret to find that you think it out of your power to contribute to the fund of an Emigration Society.

I am at a loss to conceive how the result of the proceedings of the Highland Destitution Relief Board can affect the prospects of a Society for facilitating emigration, the one undertaking being both in its ends and means essentially different from the other.

Without intending either to assent to or dissent from your views of the effects of an able-bodied Poor Law, I must repeat my conviction that nothing can more promote the adoption of such a measure than the circumstance of the Proprietors, and those in their place, abstaining from doing what the exigency of the Country renders necessary. Whether the Government will propose such a measure or not, I cannot of course say, but that it has been in their contemplation I have reason to know; and if it shall be found that nearly three-fourths of the whole Country is at present in the hands of creditors, and that those creditors think themselves entitled to exact to the uttermost all the rights of proprietorship without fulfilling the duties attached to that relationship, it cannot but materially strengthen the arguments both for an able-bodied Poor Law and for an Encumbered Estates Act. Our Society has come forward to avert such a crisis by procuring means for facilitating the relief of the evils of the Country by a voluntary emigration. We have succeeded in exciting such a desire for emigration, that we have already upwards of 2000 souls on our lists as willing to emigrate. We have succeeded in obtaining from the Emigration Commissioners some very favourable modifications of their rules; and all we now require in order to complete success is efficient pecuniary support. If that support be denied to us by those whose patrimonial interests are to be directly benefited by our exertions, we can hardly expect it from those who have no such interest, and who are in no respect responsible for the well-being of the people. We have done everything in our power to ensure success, and should we fail, our failure must be attributed to those who withhold from us the support and encouragement which we were entitled to expect. On them the responsibility must rest.

I hope you will yet reconsider the subject, for I do not think you sufficiently appreciate either the importance or the necessity of the movement, or the value of the services of those by whom it has been originated; and I also hope that when you have so reconsidered it, you will try to devise some means for enabling you sufficiently to support it. I have only to add that the sooner I hear from you the better, as much valuable time has already been lost in respect to appealing to the public for aid, which we cannot well do until we know what is to be expected from the Proprietors, on which the tone of our address to the public will in some measure depend.

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No. 4.

MR. CHRISTIE TO MR. FRASER.

26, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh,  
January 21, 1852.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt, on the 19th, of your letter of the 6th instant, again requesting me to contribute to the funds of your Emigration Society; and after giving the matter my most careful consideration, I can see no reason to alter the opinion I have already expressed on this subject.

Your whole argument appears to me to be based on a fallacy, that there is an obligation on the proprietor of an estate either to support the able-bodied persons who may be located upon it, or to afford them the means of removing elsewhere, to try to better their condition. Now this proposition I most emphatically deny, as I do not conceive there is any obligation, either legal or moral, upon a proprietor to support the able-bodied poor upon his estate, more particularly when, as is the case with Skeabost, these parties have been in possession of the estate for several years without paying any rent.

The case of creditors in possession is, if possible, still stronger on the moral obligation than that of a proprietor; and indeed if any such obligation could be held to attach to them, they might with equal justice be called upon to contribute to the support of the Proprietor himself, if he had no other means of subsistence.

Notwithstanding what you state, I cannot bring myself to believe that any Government could ever contemplate introducing a measure to establish a local able-bodied Poor Law; thereby, as I said before, confiscating to a certain extent the whole property within the district in which the law was meant to operate.

If, too, your statement that nearly three-fourths of the country are in the hands of creditors, be well founded, the fact would only render such a proceeding more monstrously unjust, as it would be a confiscation of the property of those parties, to cure an evil which they had no share in creating.

I have noticed in some of the London papers that it is in contemplation to bring in an Encumbered Estates Act for Scotland, a statement which did not surprise me, from knowing how ignorant the English press in general is of all local Scotch matters. I must be permitted, however, to state that I scarcely expected you would have given credit to such a report, as you cannot fail to know that in Scotland we have had somewhat similar Acts for the last 170 years, and which, taken in connexion with the Bankrupt Statute, seem calculated to answer every purpose of the Irish Act, although perhaps it might be advisable to simplify the forms of proceeding. Any improvement on this head I should not be disposed to ward off by contributing to your Society, were I otherwise inclined to do so.

I trust you will do me the justice to believe that in the observations I have felt myself called on to make in answer to your application, I have not meant to express, nor do I entertain the slightest doubt of the perfect *bona fides* in which the Highland Destitution Board and your Society have been and are proceeding, although I must be permitted to retain the opinion I have formed, after the fullest consideration, that the proceedings of both have not been at all calculated to strengthen or restore that feeling of self-dependence without which a people can never expect to prosper.

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No. 5.

MR. FRASER TO MR. CHRISTIE.

January 24, 1852.

I HAVE this evening received yours of 21st, written in answer to mine of the 6th instant.

You seem to think that creditors in possession are free from the responsibilities that would attach to the proprietors who are their cedents. I can admit no such distinction. Creditors coming into possession cannot take more than their debtor had; and if the estate of the debtor was limited by certain real responsibilities, those responsibilities are not wiped off by the circumstance of the estates passing from the debtor's hands into the hands of those who can only derive their right from him. There is therefore no reason for assuming that you, as a trustee for creditors, are exempt from any of the duties or responsibilities that would attach to the most independent proprietor in Skye.

You appear to assume that proprietors are not only legally but morally entitled to exact all the privileges of property, free from all responsibility for the duties generally assumed to attach to the relation of proprietorship. To that assumption I must be permitted to demur. Those duties are generally recognised in public opinion; and if it has hitherto been deemed unnecessary to fortify them by legal sanctions, it is because religion, humanity, and even an enlightened perception of self-interest have been thought sufficient guarantees for their observance. You express great alarm for the consequences of an able-bodied Poor Law; but I must be permitted to say, that I doubt if the ablest advocate for such a measure ever wrote anything so perfectly calculated to reconcile the public to the adoption of it as the expression of the views contained in your letter.

I am glad to find that you do not doubt the *bona fides* of the Society of which I am chairman, though you condemn its objects. I do not know what the extent of your personal acquaintance with the country may be, but I may perhaps be excused for saying, that since my appointment of sheriff-substitute of it, now upwards of seven years ago, I have been constantly resident in it, and have paid the utmost attention to its concerns; that the Society can boast of having amongst its members some of the most intelligent and judicious men in the island; and that it has been honoured with the cordial support, not only of persons of all classes, and of almost every shade of opinion in the country, but of persons of high standing, talent, and information, in the southern parts of this kingdom. It is quite possible that we may all be in the wrong, and you right, but that is scarcely the more probable conclusion.

I have by this post sent off an appeal to the public in support of our scheme, for publication, and a copy of it will ere long be in your hands; and I propose being soon in Edinburgh to promote the movement, which I believe to be essential, not only to the safety of the people, but to the interests of the Proprietors. It will give me exceeding pleasure should I find that your views on the subject have changed; but if not, I shall at least have the satisfaction of knowing, that amongst all the persons with whom I have been in correspondence upon the subject, there has been no other individual who has doubted either the propriety or the prudence of the movement; or who has questioned the benevolence or the wisdom of aiding a destitute people to remove from a land where they are in misery and danger, to one where they may be able to earn their own livelihood by their own labour.

## II.

SIR C. TREVELYAN TO THE EDITORS OF THE LONDON MORNING PAPERS.

4, St. Martin's Place, May 22, 1852.

It will be seen from the following extracts, to which numerous others might, if necessary, be added, that an urgent necessity exists for accelerating the removal of the redundant population of the Island of Skye, before emaciation and disease do their work as they did in the emigration from Ireland to Canada in 1847; and I may add that the state of other parts of the distressed north-western districts, both in the islands and on the mainland, is hardly a degree better:

*"Mr. Fraser to Sir C. Trevelyan, dated May 13, 1852.*

"At our meeting yesterday, so many of the poor intending emigrants attended, all anxious for some information as to their prospects of getting away, that my court-room could not hold them, and we had to adjourn to the parish church. Many of these people are in a state bordering on starvation; and I have seldom had a more painful duty to perform than to address them without being able to give them any distinct information on the matter, which to them in their present circumstances is one of such frightful interest.

*"The Rev. James McQueen, of Broadford, to the Rev. John Kennedy, dated May 17, 1852.*

"The state of the people in general is most alarming. There never has been anything like the present distress. I can hardly describe my feelings, seeing and hearing their lamentable complaints, and seeing my fellow-creatures weeping before me, when I cannot help them. May God have mercy on them! I know not what will become of them."

There is also an urgent necessity for saving a vast amount of property in Australia which is perishing for want of hands. A Commissariat officer just arrived from Victoria, saw in several districts of that colony, sheep and cattle turned into the corn-fields to eat down the crops, it being impossible to obtain labourers to reap them. The capital invested in sheep, whose number is estimated at 7,000,000 of sheep in New South Wales, 7,000,000 in Victoria, and 6,000,000 between Western Australia, Southern Australia, and Van Diemen's Land, or 20,000,000 of sheep in all, is also in imminent danger. The flocks have already, in great tracts of country, been doubled up, in numbers beyond the power of one man to attend to them; and it will be impossible to save the next clip of wool without a large additional supply of labour.

As the Highlanders, who are all more or less accustomed to the care of sheep and cattle, will be accompanied by their families, they will be more likely to settle down upon the sheep-farms than any other class of emigrants; and neither their language nor habits fit them for the active competition and sustained hard labour which would await them at the diggings.

But if starvation in Scotland, and the wholesale destruction of national capital in Australia, are to be averted, sufficient means must be at once provided by public subscription.

The plan is as follows:—

- 1st. The free passages given by the Emigration Commissioners from colonial funds to certain classes of emigrants, will be obtained for those members of each family who are eligible for them.
- 2nd. The emigrants will be required to sell all they have, and pay, as far as they are able, for their own outfit (including the regulated deposit for bedding and mess utensils), when they are eligible for free passages, and for their passage and outfit, when they are not eligible.
- 3rd. The Highland Emigration Society will advance whatever is wanting for these purposes, *as a loan to be repaid by the emigrants after their arrival in Australia*; and the sums repaid will be applied to sending out more emigrants. And,
- 4th. The landowners whose estates will be relieved by the departure of the emigrants, will be required to repay, as a gift to the fund, one-third of the advances made to their dependents.

But I repeat that success entirely depends upon the *immediate* collection of *adequate* funds. A national exigency calls for a prompt and extensive national effort. If ever there was a case for a collection at the church-doors, or from house to house of those whom God has blessed with means, this is one. "Freely ye have received, freely give."

C. E. TREVELYAN,  
Chairman of the Highland and Island Emigration Committee.

### III.

COLONEL PHIPPS TO SIR C. TREVELYAN.

Osborne, May 23, 1852.

I HAVE submitted the whole of the papers which you have been good enough to forward to me, to His Royal Highness the Prince Albert.

The general apprehension which appears to be now entertained of the loss of a great part of the Australian wool, for want of adequate labour, proves to me how prudently and upon what good principles your benevolent exertions, and those of the Committee associated with you, have been based. The only doubt appears to be, whether emigrants can be sent out fast enough to stem the progress of the Australian famine for labour, by relieving the Highland famine for food. The only possible chance against a large portion of the emigrants deserting to the diggings, appears to me to be in the system of family emigration; and it really seems that what are usually considered the prohibitory clogs to emigration, the old and the very young, would now be very useful as forming anchors by which a family would be held to a rural home, with plenty of space and plenty of food.

I have great pleasure in informing you that the Queen has been pleased to direct me to state that it is Her Majesty's intention to subscribe a sum of £300 from the Privy Purse to the Highland Emigration Society.

### IV.

MR. BONAMY PRICE TO MR. FOSTER, OF WHARFESIDE, NEAR BRADFORD, YORKSHIRE.

I LEARN from the newspapers that the woollen manufacturers of Yorkshire are seriously alarmed by the prospect of a failure of the supply of wool from Australia, occasioned by the migration of the agricultural population to the gold-diggings, and are deeply anxious to provide some remedy for so formidable a calamity. I hope you will not think I am trespassing unwarrantably on your time if I bring under your notice an Association well calculated to meet the emergency.

Two extremities of the British Empire are at this moment threatened with evils involving public and private misfortunes of the severest kind. The desertion of his shepherds, and the consequent destruction of his flocks, impend over the Australian sheep-farmer; on the other hand, the decay of the potatoe-cultivation and the breaking down of the system of small holdings, expose a large mass of the Highland population of Scotland to absolute starvation. These calamities, if unaverted, would bring fearful miseries on these districts; but the suffering would not be confined to them. One of the most extensive and important branches of England's trade would be paralyzed. Immense losses, perhaps even to the extent of a serious contraction of their business, would be inflicted on the manufacturers of Yorkshire and other places. Multitudes of industrious operatives would be thrown out of employment, and destitution spread over regions now flourishing with prosperity and happiness. Humanity and self-interest unite in furnishing the strongest motives for seeking energetically the prevention of such terrible misfortunes.

Fortunately, the evils under which Australia and Scotland suffer are of a directly opposite nature, and are capable of being made to correct and neutralize each other. Scotland labours under an excess of labour and a deficiency of food. Australia has a superabundance of food and an overwhelming want of labourers. It would be a disgrace to England and the civilization of the 19th century—not to speak of Christian philanthropy—if an empire, commanding means unexampled in the history of the world, lacked the skill and the energy to ward off needless desolation and ruin by so simple a process as the transfer of the superfluous resources of one province to relieve the deficiencies of another. It concerns us deeply as Christians, as Englishmen, and as the Rulers of the greatest empire known to mankind, not to allow such dishonour at the cost of such suffering to befall us through our own incapacity.

The problem then is to bring Scotland and Australia to bear on the relief of each other; and I think that the Society recently formed for assisting Emigration from the Highlands and Islands of Scotland offers the solution. The Scotch Highlanders seem peculiarly fitted for supplying the wants of Australia. Their virtues and their failings alike qualify them for the

task. They are familiar with the care of sheep. The great strength of the bonds of family and of race disposes them, as their brother Celts of Ireland, to emigrate in masses; whilst their indolent temper, and their aversion to long-sustained labour, would make the pastoral life of Australia precisely suited to their taste, and render them comparatively insensible to the temptations of an exciting but toilsome search for gold. It is well known, too, that the presence of their families would be a powerful inducement with Scotch Highlanders to settle down upon the sheep-farms; no other body of settlers could offer such a guarantee against roving.

The distress has now reached a crisis in the Highlands. The subscription prompted by the failure of the potato in 1846 is now exhausted; the means of supporting life have failed; the wretched people recognise the forlornness of their situation, and, like the Irish, are eager to save themselves by an exodus that might within a short period number 30,000 or 40,000 emigrants. They desire to settle down in new regions in entire families; an arrangement which every good man must ardently desire for the sake of the emigrants themselves, and as the best corrective of the moral evils which have disgraced Australia, and injured the well-being of society there.

Here then is a rare and most fortunate combination of circumstances, which promises exactly to repel the danger with which the trade of Yorkshire is threatened. Hitherto emigration *en masse* to Australia has been found impracticable. Individuals drawn from every part of the country, commonly without their families, and proceeding in scanty numbers, is all that has been as yet attained. A new emergency has sprung up, which the resources offered by such isolated action is wholly unable to meet. An entire population is on the eve of deserting its employment; and a large district of England is in peril of heavy and perhaps irretrievable loss. By a dispensation of God's Providence, another integral population, singularly qualified by its habits and character to perform the work which is required, is ready and willing to fill up the gap. What the manufacturers of Yorkshire seek presents itself spontaneously. Troops of emigrants, to be numbered by tens of thousands, are eager to provide that raw material which is indispensable to the prosperity of Yorkshire, and that under conditions most favourable to the welfare of the emigrants, of the colony, and of the mother-country. A fitting machinery alone is needed for accomplishing this invaluable work; the Society, I conceive, supplies what is desired.

It proposes to carry out the emigration of the Highlanders to Australia in the following manner. No selection of emigrants will be made, nor will families be broken up; each family will emigrate bodily. The cost of the emigration will be defrayed from the following sources:—

1. The Commissioners of Emigration will provide a passage gratis for all the able-bodied men and women, and as large a proportion of children as the rules under which they act will allow.
2. The emigrants will be required to sell whatever property they may possess, and contribute the proceeds towards paying the expenses of the outfit and passage, as far as they will extend.

3. The additional sums required to provide,—1st, an outfit for those to whom the Commissioners shall have granted a free passage; and 2nd, the whole cost of emigration of the family, will be advanced by the Society as a loan upon the personal bonds of the emigrants. Repayment within a reasonable time will be demanded in the colony.

4. The landowners of the estates from which the emigrants proceed will be required to contribute to the funds of the Society one-third of the outlay incurred for those emigrants.

You will perceive that by this arrangement the Society makes no gift of money to the emigrant. Its funds are devoted solely to making advances, repayable by the emigrants, and will be liable solely for the expense of agency and for losses incurred through non-repayment. When labour is in such urgent demand, and commands immediately such high remuneration, no difficulty is apprehended in recovering from the emigrant a sum small compared with his means, when once he is landed in the colony. Indeed the recovery of advances made to promote emigration is a process which is now constantly going on in Australia; and if proper precautions are taken, no loss of any importance need be dreaded.

In recommending this Society to your notice, I am making no appeal to your charity. I address you as a Yorkshire manufacturer, deeply interested in procuring an adequate supply of wool from Australia. I venture to hope in its behalf for the vigorous support of you and your brother capitalists, as an instrument pre-eminently adapted to accomplish your object. The Society, it is true, was not constructed for Yorkshire purposes: its aim was simply to transplant a starving people from a region of want to one of plenty. One of those marvellous vicissitudes to which colonial society is exposed has conferred on it the power whilst carrying out its special design of relieving the Highlands, of performing besides an immense service to the colony and to Yorkshire. It invites others to help in saving famishing thousands at small cost and risk: it asks for the support of the Woollen Trade of Yorkshire, as the most effectual and economical instrument of executing a work now urgently required for the safety of that trade. It is administered by men of the highest standing, of the most eminent practical ability, and the most tried judgment. It is difficult to conceive how Yorkshire could attain its end so cheaply and so efficiently by any other machinery. The society offers you Scotchmen, shepherds, families averse to roving; a large body of people ready and able at once to enter upon this work; the aid of the Government Commissioners; a considerable contribution from landowners; repayment of advances; a working staff, chosen from the best practical men which the colonial and other circles of London can supply. Where could you get so much?

Let me again impress upon you the greatness and rarity of the opportunity. Emigration by dribblets cannot fulfil the pressing object of the manufacturers and the colonists. A flight of the shepherds, both sudden and universal, is the danger apprehended: nothing therefore but a

supply of labourers, equally extensive and immediate, can save the flocks from destruction. Is not this readiness of what may be called a whole people to embark instantly—a people beyond all others suited to perform this particular work—a remedy as effective as it is unprecedented? May not a religious mind discern in it the benevolent action of Divine Providence? Will the woollen-manufacturers of this great country, who are thus clearly furnished with the means, fail in the will and the resolution to save themselves?

But the benefit to be reaped from this emigration, if successfully achieved, would not be limited to the averting of the calamities which now menace the woollen-manufacturers of England and the flock-masters of Australia. Even before the discovery of gold, a scarcity of labour was severely felt in Australia. The sheep-owner could not reckon on procuring a supply of shepherds and servants at all proportionate to his wants; whilst the English manufacturer was unable to feel that confidence respecting a continued sufficiency of the raw material at a moderate cost, which would enable him to extend his machinery and develop his trade with safety and effect. The Scotch Highlander, like the Irish peasant, possesses in his Celtic nature, one element peculiarly suited to meet this difficulty. The Celts retain that ancient disposition to migrate in national masses, which has now disappeared from the other races of Europe. It may be confidently expected that the successful establishment of the Highlanders in Australia would be followed by a perpetual stream of subsequent emigration. It cannot be doubted that the Scotch Celts would resemble the Irish in inviting their friends and relations whom they had left behind, to come and share in the prosperity of their new country. Remittances of funds would be made with the same earnestness and the same generosity. The progress of emigration would thus become cumulative; and an approximation would be made towards that solution of the problem of emigration, which has been so long and yet so ineffectually sought by the country.

## V.

## No. 1.

SIR C. TREVELYAN TO J. S. BROWNRIGG, ESQ., CHAIRMAN OF THE AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL COMPANY.

May 24, 1852.

It appears from the communication I have had from Mr. Murdoch, that we are not likely to have any serious difficulty with the Emigration Commissioners in effecting an arrangement for sending a body of emigrants from the Highlands of Scotland direct to Port Stephen; and I am ready, therefore, to receive your proposal in regard to the precise terms to be offered to the emigrants, and to discuss all the other arrangements with you. I am always at the Treasury, and shall be ready to see you there whenever you like to come; but I will thank you to let Mr. Price know when you mean to be there, in order that he may assist in the discussion.

You were so kind as to say that you would inquire whether the £200 which you stated has been lately granted by the Australian Agricultural Company in aid of emigration, was for us or for some other Society. If it should not be for *our* Society, I hope you and your colleagues will consider the propriety of making us an equal grant. The demand for labor in Australia is more urgent and critical now than it has ever been, and I am confident that such an immediate and suitable supply as we can offer is not to be found elsewhere. It will be in vain for you to send out emigrants under special contracts with your Company, if the effort which is being made to bring down the present rate of wages in Australia is not supported. It will also be in vain for us to appeal to the benevolent feelings of the public, if those bodies, which like your Company have a direct and primary interest in the matter, do not come forward with liberal subscriptions.

## No. 2.

MR. BROWNRIGG TO SIR C. TREVELYAN.

Australian Agricultural Company,  
12, King's Arms Yard, London, May 26, 1852.

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th instant.

It appears to me that you labor under some misapprehension in supposing that I am desirous, on the part of the Australian Agricultural Company, to make any proposals to the Highland Emigration Committee; on the contrary, I rather expected some from you, as when Mr. Brickwood made the first communication to me touching the objects of that Committee, and which led subsequently to my interview with you, I understood from him that you were anxious to obtain the co-operation and assistance of the Australian Agricultural Company in carrying out those objects; and that, while distinct means were calculated upon as available for the passage of the intending emigrants, according to the printed papers given to me by Mr. Price,

those of making the deposit required from each by the rules of the Emigration Commissioners, for the purposes of outfit, were not so clearly discernable.

*Co-operation and assistance to the extent of that deposit*, I was quite prepared to recommend to our Directors, provided I saw a reasonable prospect of an equivalent to the Company; and I suggested to you, at our interview, that such equivalent might possibly be found in directing one of the ships taking out emigrants from the Highlands to Port Stephen, whereby a *better chance* would accrue to the Australian Agricultural Company of obtaining the services of those they might require.

I pointed out to you that some advantage also might accrue to the emigrants themselves, and the objects of your Society might be furthered by giving *that* destination to a certain portion of them. The expense at, and the temptations of Sydney would be avoided, and the officers of the Company would, on the emigrants landing at Carrington do all in their power for their accommodation and comfort; while not only the wants of this Company, but those of the numerous flock-masters and settlers in the counties of Brisbane, Gloucester, and Macquarie, in Liverpool Plains, and the districts of New England, the Clarence and Darling Downs, would afford ample resources to the emigrants for obtaining immediate employment on such terms as the contracting parties might agree upon, and thus avoid infringement of the regulations of the Emigration Commissioners, which prohibit any contracts for service being entered into in this country.

The subscription of £200 given by the Australian Agricultural Company, was to "The Family Colonization Loan Society," presided over by Lord Shaftesbury, as being one conducted on principles originated by Mrs. Chisholm, and which our directors thought well of; its prospectus you have doubtless seen.

How far the Directors of this Company may consider themselves justified in making donations from the funds of the Proprietors to other Societies formed for analogous purposes, must depend on the means at their disposal, and various other considerations which will necessarily engage their attention.

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### No. 3.

SIR C. TREVELYAN TO MR. BROWNRIGG.

May 28, 1852.

I HAVE had the pleasure of receiving your letter of yesterday's date.

When we talked the matter over at the Treasury, I understood you to say, that in order to make it worth the while of your Company to incur expense in sending emigrants to Port Stephen, it would be necessary that they should enter into engagements to serve the Company for three years; in consideration of which you would be willing to contribute towards the expense of their passage, and to give them several advantages of the nature of cottages, allotments of land, rations, &c.; and we parted with the understanding that the further progress of the transaction would depend upon the solution of the question how far such a condition would be consistent with the co-operation of the Emigration Commissioners.

But I understand the purport of the letter I have now had the honor of receiving from you to be, that while, on the one hand, you will not contribute towards the expense of the *passage* of the emigrants, or *stipulate* beforehand to give them any advantages after their arrival; on the other, you do not require that they should enter into any contract of service with your Company; but you propose that they should be perfectly free to enter, after their arrival at Port Stephen, into any engagements they may think proper, either with your Company or with any of the numerous flock-masters and settlers in the neighbourhood.

I also understand you to state, that provided one of the ships taking out emigrants from the Highlands of Scotland were directed to Port Stephen, you would be prepared to recommend to your Directors to contribute towards the expense, to the extent of the regulated deposits for outfit, and that the officers of the Company would, on the emigrants landing at Carrington, do all in their power for their accommodation and comfort.

I consider this last a more satisfactory basis of settlement than that which was at first proposed, and I shall be prepared to recommend to the Highland Emigration Committee and the Emigration Commissioners, that a ship should be despatched at the earliest practical date, to Port Stephen, upon your Company pledging yourselves to contribute to our fund a sum equal to the deposit for each emigrant required by the rules of the Emigration Commissioners; it being understood that our Society will be left perfectly free to carry out our plan in all its details in this as in any other case, including the repayment to our fund of the whole of the advances made to the emigrants, in order that similar assistance may be given to successive numbers of persons wishing to emigrate.

With reference to the subject of the concluding paragraph of your letter, I would suggest that if your Company consider that the firm establishment and successful operation of our Society including its ultimate extension to other districts besides the Highlands of Scotland, would be for the advantage of Australia, you would make known your approbation by a distinct subscription to our fund, the example of which would be likely to be followed by other corporate bodies and mercantile firms connected with that country. All I ask is, that the merchants and the agricultural and banking corporations connected with Australia should each give in some



proportion to their interest in the movement; and we will undertake to expend their money faithfully and economically for the object in view; and to get other large contributions from landed proprietors also interested in the matter, and numerous other persons, from Her Majesty downwards, who have no motive except that of pure benevolence.

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No. 4.

MR. BROWNRIGG TO SIR C. TREVELYAN.

Australian Agricultural Company,  
12, King's Arms Yard, London, June 9, 1852.

A PRESS of business and other matters have prevented my earlier acknowledging your letter of the 28th ultimo, for which I beg to apologize.

You state in your letter that you will be prepared to recommend to the Highland Emigration Committee and the Emigration Commissioners, that a ship should be despatched to Port Stephen at the earliest practicable date, upon our Company pledging ourselves to contribute to your fund a sum equal to the deposit for each emigrant required by the rules of the Emigration Commissioners; it being understood that your Society will be left perfectly free to carry out your plan in all its details, &c.

This proposition tends much to simplify the contemplated arrangements, and I am authorized to state that the Australian Agricultural Company will contribute to the funds of the Highland Emigration Committee £200, on the following conditions: viz., 1st. That a vessel containing emigrants from your Society be sent direct to Port Stephen; and 2ndly. That amongst the emigrants so embarked there shall not be less than fifty men, whose age, &c., would render them eligible for a free passage under the existing regulations of the Colonial Emigration Commissioners.

The Australian Agricultural Company, in the event of these terms being agreed to, will instruct their officers to give the emigrants every accommodation as to temporary lodging and shelter that Carrington and its neighbourhood afford; due provision of meat and flour, with such other articles of ordinary consumption as the stores of the Company can afford, will be made and issued to the emigrants at such rates as will reimburse the Company, without any view as to profit.

The Company's officers will be instructed to take into the service of the Company as many of the emigrants as may be required and be suitable for its purposes, at the rate of wages then current, as may be agreed upon between the Company's officer and the emigrant, the latter being quite free to engage or not, as he pleases; for those who may immediately enter the Company's service no charge will be made for lodging, or for the usual rations granted to similar laborers by the Company.

This Company will also be happy to afford your Society, through the agency of its officers, every practicable facility for realizing from the emigrants the repayment of the expenses incurred on their account by your Society, according to your own regulations.

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No. 5.

SIR C. TREVELYAN TO MR. BROWNRIGG.

June 11, 1852.

I HAVE laid your letter to me, dated the 9th instant, before the Highland Emigration Committee and the Emigration Commissioners, and supposing freight to Port Stephen can be obtained at a reasonable rate, they are both ready to carry out the plan of sending a vessel containing Highland emigrants direct to that port on the conditions proposed by you, provided you are able to satisfy them upon one point, namely, that all the emigrants will obtain suitable employment within a short period of their arrival, at rates of wages equal or nearly equal to those which prevail at Sydney and Melbourne.

You state in your letter to me, dated the 26th ultimo, that not only the wants of your Company, but those of the numerous flock-masters and settlers in the counties of Brisbane, Gloucester, and Macquarie, in Liverpool plains and the districts of New England, the Clarence and Darling Downs, would afford ample resources to the emigrants for obtaining immediate employment on such terms as the contracting parties might agree upon.

I would therefore suggest that you should confer with any firms or individuals there may be in this country connected with the sheep-farms in the districts above mentioned, and join with them in preparing an authenticated written statement containing such particulars as would satisfy the Emigration Commissioners and the Highland Emigration Committee, that in sending a body of Highland emigrants direct to Port Stephen, the interests of the emigrants would be duly cared for.

You mention, as one of the two conditions upon which your Company will subscribe £200 to our fund, that amongst the emigrants so embarked there shall not be less than fifty men whose



age, &c., would render them eligible for a free passage under the existing regulations of the Colonial Emigration Commissioners. On this point it is well to mention that the average number of emigrants of both sexes and of all ages embarked in the ships taken up by the Emigration Commissioners is 300, which would give an average of about 60 heads of families. We cannot, however, answer for the precise number mentioned by you of males eligible for a free passage being embarked in the ship proposed to be sent to Port Stephen. There may be a few more or less than fifty; and the total number of emigrants to be sent, and consequently the number of men eligible for free passages, will depend upon the information we receive from you and other parties concerned as to the probable extent of the demand for pastoral and agricultural labor in the districts adjoining to Port Stephen, including the estates of your Company. All we can undertake to do is to make up, *on our principle of emigration by whole families*, a company of emigrants, proportioned, as nearly as can be ascertained, to the wants of the neighbourhood of Port Stephen.

It is also right to mention, that the £200 which your Company offer to subscribe to our fund, would fall considerably short of the amount which our Society would have to advance for the body of emigrants proposed to be sent to Port Stephen; because, besides the regulated deposits, we should have to assist all, or nearly all, the emigrants to provide their outfit, and we should also have to advance the passage-money of those who are not eligible for free passages according to the rules of the Emigration Commissioners. We therefore hope that you and the directors and officers of the Australian Agricultural Company, will exert your good offices with the representatives of the firms and individuals not belonging to your Company who will profit by the introduction of these emigrants, to subscribe to our Fund in some proportion to the benefit they will derive from the operation.

## VI.

### No. 1.

CAPTAIN HAMILTON, SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY, TO SIR C. TREVELYAN.

Admiralty, June 7, 1852.

HERE is an estimate; I fear it will startle you.

Our calculation, however, is not for the voyage, but for a term of twelve months. Your Committee have ampler data than we possess, upon which to determine the *length* of voyage out and home to any particular point, and the calculation for twelve months is therefore quite sufficient for any definite term.

The "Belleisle" is *ready* as far as *repairs* is concerned, but we must remember that she would have to be *manned* (*i.e.*, a crew to be got), and this would require three weeks.

Of course this period would have to be included, as well as the time of the voyage to Oban.

The "Belleisle" could convey, exclusive of crew, 1000 emigrants of all ages.

### Inclosure in No. 1.

ESTIMATE OF THE TOTAL ANNUAL EXPENSE OF THE "BELLEISLE," IF EMPLOYED AS A TROOP-SHIP OR TRANSPORT.

#### *Annual expense of wear and tear.*

	£	£
Hull ... ..	1,986	
Masts and yards ... ..	187	
Rigging and stores ... ..	1,731	
		3,904
Wages, as per complement inclosed ...	4,300	
Victuals ... ..	2,254	
		6,554
Total annual cost ... ..		£10,458

SIR C. TREVELYAN TO MR. MURDOCH.

June 8, 1852.

I SEND a note from Captain Hamilton, with an estimate of the cost of the "Belleisle" for twelve months, including nearly £4000 for repairs.

But this estimate does not include provisions for the emigrants, which I believe are comprehended in the rates *per head* at which your contracts are made for the conveyance of emigrants. If this be so, an estimated sum will have to be added to the cost of the "Belleisle" for the cost of the provisions of 1000 emigrants.

But however this may be, I will thank you to have a careful comparison made between the cost of sending emigrants to Australia by freight-ships at the present rate, and sending them by the "Belleisle" according to the estimate furnished by Captain Hamilton, and let me know the result, with your own observations upon it.

The "Belleisle" might be sent to Portree to embark the emigrants under the superintendence of an emigration agent specially deputed by you. We had a frigate stationed at Portree for many months during the famine, and another at Tobemory in the Isle of Mull, as depôts for sale of meal.

No. 3.

MR. MURDOCH TO SIR C. TREVELYAN.

4, Park Street, June 10, 1852.

I RETURN you herewith Captain Hamilton's letter and estimate of the "Belleisle."

The "Belleisle" is, I understand, but little over 1700 tons measurement. Consequently she could carry under the Passengers' Act only 850 statute adults, including her officers, surgeon, and crew. This no doubt is less than she has carried of troops; but troops being always one-third on deck, and being generally young and healthy men, require much less room than emigrants with their women and children.

Assuming, then, that the officers and crew of the "Belleisle" amounted to 100, there would remain 750 statute adult emigrants to be put on board. I have inquired separately from our agents and from some of the most reliable ship-brokers, and they concur in calculating the expense of fittings and provisions at from £6 5s. to £6 10s. per statute adult. The calculation then would stand thus:—

Use of the "Belleisle" for nine months, as per Admiralty Estimate	...	£7,843 10
Fittings and provisions for 750 statute adults, at £6 10s. per head	...	4,875 0
		<hr/> £12,718 10

which, divided by 750, gives exactly £16 19s. per statute adult. We took up on Tuesday last one ship as high as £17 18s. 9d.; so on this calculation the "Belleisle" would cause a saving. Of course this saving would be very much increased if the Admiralty would take the ship off our hands as soon as she arrived out, instead of requiring us to bring her home again. But whether this could be done I have no means of judging.

In these calculations I have assumed that the Admiralty calculation includes the outside of all the expense that the ship would cost us, and that there are no other charges beyond the provisioning and fittings for the emigrants and the mess for the surgeon. I presume that as our surgeons have the whole superintendence of the emigrants, not as regards their health only, but also their conduct, his appointment would devolve on us.

No. 4.

SIR C. TREVELYAN TO CAPTAIN HAMILTON.

June 12, 1852.

You will see from the accompanying printed correspondence, the further progress of the affair of the "Belleisle."

You said that a temporary deck might be constructed for the crew, by which the whole of the accommodation below might be given up to the emigrants. Is the cost of this included in the estimate? and if not, what would be the probable amount of it? And would the temporary deck be so constructed as to be included in the measurement of the tonnage? This is an important point, because the number of emigrants allowed to be embarked is regulated according to the Passengers' Act, by the tonnage.

Could you not find some suitable employment for the "Belleisle," which would enable you to take her off our hands after her arrival in Australia?

But if we have to pay the expenses of her return voyage, I presume we shall have the benefit of anything we can make by receiving consignments of gold on private account. The Duke (to whom I shall be obliged to you to submit these papers) might object to a return cargo of wool, and considering the expenses of the crew, it might not answer our purpose.

## VII.

## No. 1.

SIR C. TREVELYAN TO T. W. C. MURDOCH, ESQ., CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF  
EMIGRATION.

May 10, 1852.

THIS letter from Mr. Rainey, the proprietor of the Island of Raasay, which I have received with the accompanying note from his nephew, Mr. Cardwell, furnishes another proof of the necessity of *decisive* and *energetic* action as regards the emigration from the Western Islands and Highlands. Mr. Rainey purchased the island not many years ago; he has laid out large sums in its improvement and in supporting the people, and I know him to be a man whose word is entirely to be relied upon.

The suggestion made by Mr. Rainey in the fourth page of his letter, that a person should be sent on the part of the Emigration Commissioners with power at once to decide on and approve of the parties or families who should be accepted by the Commissioners, in order that the families so approved might make their preparations with confidence, and be ready when the notice came for their embarkation, appears to be worthy of adoption—it being understood that the emigrants will be approved on the principle agreed upon between yourself, Sir J. McNeill, and myself—that is, that the emigration of the people *in families* will be permitted as much as possible, especially by relaxing the rules of the Commissioners in favour of the *younger* members of families, leaving the people themselves, the proprietors, and our Society, to pay for the passages of those who are over age.

As we are anxious to act entirely in concert with you, you will perhaps talk the subject over with us again before you answer my letter, if there should be any practical difficulty in acting in the manner which appears to us to be required to meet the exigency of the case.

## No. 2.

MR. MURDOCH TO SIR C. TREVELYAN.

May 11, 1852.

I RETURN Mr. Rainey and Mr. Cardwell's letters. The cases alluded to by Mr. Rainey are those to which Sir J. McNeill has alluded, and on which I have communicated with him. In the first we have offered to take the whole family, if the elder brother will give a pledge to support the younger children, the only reason for rejecting them having been that there was no one in the party on whom the younger children had any legal claim for support, and they might therefore have been thrown on Colonial resources, immediately on their arrival. In the second case, the widow McLeod and her two younger children were on one farm, and the three adult children on other farms, and there was nothing to show that they were the same family. The mistake, however, was discovered, in consequence of a further representation from Skye, before Sir J. McNeill mentioned it, and the whole family was accepted.

In respect to sending an agent to Skye to pass the people, I quite agree with Mr. Rainey that it would be a very desirable arrangement; and early in the correspondence we informed Mr. Fraser that whenever he could tell us that a considerable number of candidates for passage were ready to come forward, we would send an agent. We could not send one for a small number only, because the agent we should employ, if possible, would be our Emigration officer at Glasgow, who could not be long or frequently absent from his post. Hitherto, however, we have had no intimation of there being any number of candidates ready to be inspected; and my impression is, that Mr. Taylor and Mr. Fraser do not attach so much importance to this part of the scheme as we do.

In regard to the mode of carrying on this emigration, we agree entirely with you that a great advantage is to be derived from taking the emigrants in families; and we will endeavour to follow that principle to its best advantage. Where in doing so a case arises which justifies a relaxation in regard to the number of young children to be allowed, we shall be prepared to consider it on its merits, but we cannot, of course, make any rule beforehand as to relaxing a rule. The objection to many young children is that they engender sickness on the voyage, and that they interfere with the engagement of the parents after their arrival. But, on the other hand, a family may offer such advantages as to counterbalance these objections, and justify us in accepting it, notwithstanding its having more than its due proportion of young children. This would be especially the case where it contained several adult females.

In regard to the number of emigrants whom we may take, I can only say that we expect in the month of June to dispatch eleven or twelve ships, which will take in all 3000 souls. We can therefore find passages for a large number of the Islanders if they are ready; but of course we must have due notice, that in case they do not come forward, we may fill our ships from other quarters.

SIR C. TREVELYAN TO T. FRASER, ESQ., CHAIRMAN OF THE SKYE EMIGRATION COMMITTEE.

May 10, 1852.

SIR JOHN MCNEILL has probably already informed you that we had a long interview with Mr. Murdoch on Friday, which on the whole was satisfactory.

We fully acquainted him with our principle, and he promised to favour it as far as he can, consistently with Colonial interests. To whatever extent he relaxes the strictness of his rules, it is likely to be on the side of the young.

He acquainted Sir John McNeill with the result of his inquiries into the cases described in Mr. Taylor's letter, and Sir J. McNeill has no doubt written to you about it.

As Mr. Murdoch informed me that he is in constant communication with you as to the departure of ships, &c., it seems unnecessary for me to enter into further details.

MR. FRASER TO SIR C. TREVELYAN.

Mossbank, Portree, May 8, 1852.

As you desired to be kept informed of the proceedings of our Committee here as well as of that in Edinburgh, I send you inclosed a copy of a letter which I wrote two days ago to Mr. Rollo, the Secretary of the Edinburgh Committee.

I am to-day favoured with your letter of 4th instant, and this day week I had a letter from Mr. Haly; but I have not yet heard whether any meeting of the London Committee has been held, or any resolution come to by that Committee, on the question raised by Sir John McNeill, and discussed in my long letter to you of 22nd ultimo, as to the postponement of operations until proprietors and creditors have come into the terms proposed to them. In the meantime, the Skye Committee, having no assurance of aid from either Edinburgh or London, are necessarily at a stand still, and their present position is both embarrassing and painful.

By last post we received from the Emigration Commissioners the acceptance of proposals for 194 souls, the deposits for which will come to £284, and whose outfit will cost perhaps an equal sum, say £600 in all. I believe the Commissioners have a ship to sail early in June, but to secure passages by it, the deposits must be paid in London before the 24th. The fund collected here is, as I formerly mentioned to you, very small, and quite insufficient to meet such a draft upon it, so that we must abandon all hope of sending off our 194 accepted emigrants by the present opportunity, unless the Edinburgh and London Committees agree at once to provide the necessary funds for the purpose. I beg to suggest that the London Committee should agree to pay the deposits to the Commissioners in London, and that they and the Edinburgh Committee should give us an assurance that the cost of outfit will, when due, be defrayed out of the funds under their controul, in so far as our funds may be insufficient. This will enable us to send off our 194, who must otherwise be disappointed. The payment of the deposits by your Committee in London will save time, an important consideration, and save some expense in the transmission of the money. We can easily procure the outfits from Glasgow, if only assured of having the means of paying for them in due time.

There is, I believe, only about £200 in bank here, and I think it ought to be reserved to meet expenses, &c. We are in danger of losing the services of our able and zealous secretary, Mr. Taylor, who finds the duties of his office to engross his time so much, as to interfere seriously with his other avocations. We owe much of our success with the people to his attention, judgment, and temper, and to lose his assistance would be a serious misfortune to us. I hope, however, that an arrangement may be made to lighten his labour, by the employment of a subordinate, so as to enable him to continue his valuable services to us; and I have a very suitable person for an assistant in view, whom I think we may secure for 8s. or 10s. a-week.

I shall be most anxious to hear from you in reply to this. The course of post between Skye and London is so tedious, and the notice of the sailing of the ship so short, that there is no time to lose.

(Inclosure in No. 4.)

MR. FRASER TO MR. ROLLO, W.S.

OUR first band of emigrants went off by the steamer last night; but in consequence of the shortness of notice of the sailing of the ship for Australia, of the disappointment as to the outfits, and of the uncertainty as to the funds in Edinburgh and London being available, only about 60 instead of 250 could be sent away. There is much disappointment, and many of our intending emigrants having thrown up their lands, &c., in expectation of getting away early, it is of the utmost importance that arrangements should be made with the least possible delay for sending

them off. I am afraid that nothing can be done so long as our present uncertainty about the funds in Edinburgh and London continues. On this point I have stated my views very fully in a letter to Mr. Mackgill, and in one to Sir Charles Trevelyan, which has been communicated to Sir John McNeill; and as I have not heard of Sir John's return from London, I beg to ask you whether or not the Edinburgh Committee have definitely resolved making the application of their funds contingent upon the proprietors and trustees for creditors acceding to their terms; and what progress has been made in the negotiation with those parties.

We are to have a special meeting of our society on Wednesday next; and though there can of course be no answer to this letter, yet I hope that before that day I may be favoured with some communication on the subject from either London or Edinburgh, with, if so, reference to my letters to Sir Charles Trevelyan of 22nd and 27th ultimo.

No. 5.

SIR C. TREVELYAN TO MR. FRASER.

Treasury, May 13, 1852.

I HAVE duly received your letter dated the 8th instant, with the inclosed copy of a letter to Mr. Rollo, dated the 6th instant, and I proceed to answer it in Sir John McNeill's presence, and with his concurrence.

The rule that one-third of the sum disbursed by the Society on account of the emigrants, is to be paid by the owners or trustees of the properties from which the emigrants are removed, is *in no case*, to be departed from. The sums already subscribed by the owners or agents of properties may be applied on account of their third as far as they will go; and beyond that no assistance can be given until the proprietors or their representatives have distinctly pledged themselves to contribute to our fund in the proportion of one-third of the further sums proposed to be advanced. If the owner or agent of a property will not do this, you will give no assistance to emigrants from that property, but will proceed to operate upon other properties, the owners or agents of which undertake to refund to us one-third of the sum disbursed by the Committee on account of particular emigrants immediately proposed to be removed.

You have not given us any information which would enable us to judge how far the rules which have been determined upon have been carried out in other respects. For instance, you do not say whether the accepted emigrants have applied all their available means to defraying the expense of their outfit and deposits, and what sum has been realized and applied by them to these objects. Neither do you say whether you have taken a written obligation from the emigrants to repay to the Society in Australia the whole sum advanced to them, nor sent us a Form of the obligation so entered or to be entered into with them.

But on this occasion we are ready to make every allowance for the want of previous arrangement; and relying upon your substantially carrying out the conditions upon which alone our assistance can be given, we shall be ready to advance whatever is deficient (after their own means have been fully brought to account) in the cost of the deposit and outfit of the 194 emigrants who have been accepted by the Commissioners. The required payment will be made by the Edinburgh Committee, whose funds it has been agreed shall be exhausted before the London Committee begins to make any disbursement.

Sir John McNeill will return to Edinburgh on Saturday, and he will shortly after send you all the necessary forms of account, obligation, &c.; and I repeat, that in the meantime we shall be satisfied if you carry out our rules in substance according to such forms as you think best.

I inclose three copies of the rules.

Sir J. McNeill and I think that your Committee are acting judiciously in reserving the balance of your fund, which you state at £200, for the expenses of agency.

No. 6.

MR. FRASER TO SIR C. TREVELYAN.

Mossbank, Portree, May 13, 1852.

I AM to-day favoured with your letter of 10th, but I have heard nothing from Sir John McNeill since I left London; neither have I had any communication from Mr. Haly of later date than 27th ultimo. I am thus in absolute ignorance as to the progress made in raising funds; as to whether the London Committee have had any meetings; and as to the views they have taken on the point raised by Sir John McNeill, and discussed in my letter to you of 22nd of last month. At our meeting yesterday, so many of the poor intending emigrants attended, all anxious for some information as to their prospects of getting away, that my court-room could not hold them, and we had to adjourn to the Parish Church. Many of these people are in a state bordering on starvation; and I have seldom had a more painful duty to perform than to address them without being able to give them any distinct information on the matter, which to them in their present circumstances is one of such frightful interest.

See page 20.

Should the Emigration Commissioners make any further modifications of their regulations as to deposits, I hope it may be on the side of the elderly rather than of the young, for it is to the former only that the modification will be of much advantage to us. In the present state of the labour-market in Australia I fully believe that the emigrants from forty-five to sixty will be found the more useful class, because more likely to stick to stationary employments rather than go to the mines. Besides, the Colony requires especially unmarried women, and in order to secure them their parents ought to be taken on easy terms. Exacting £11 of deposit, as is done by the present regulations, for persons of fifty years and upwards, not only excludes directly many very valuable emigrants, but indirectly deprives the Colonies of a considerable unmarried female emigration.

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No. 7.

SIR C. TREVELYAN TO MR. FRASER.

May 17, 1852.

I HAVE not thought it necessary to trouble you upon all the details of the proceedings of the London Committee in regard to the organization of the Society, and the arrangements for raising funds, but I have kept you informed of everything that immediately concerns your part in the affair, and shall continue to do so without the delay of a single post.

See page 21.

My letter to you of the 13th instant contained a clear explanation of the views and wishes of Sir John McNeill and myself as to the contribution of one-third to be required from the proprietors, and I have now to add that I read that letter on the same day to the London Committee, and that it was entirely approved of by them.

I have also to state that I have had a second conference to-day with the Emigration Commissioners, and that they suggest that you should proceed at once to prepare lists of intending emigrants, *classed in families*, showing the name, age, and occupation of each person; and that you should transmit these lists to them, in order that they may forward them to Captain Brownrigg, their Glasgow agent, with instructions to go to the spot and act upon them as they may direct; and they wish you, at the same time, to write to Captain Brownrigg and acquaint him with the fact of your having sent such lists, and arrange with him convenient times and places for meeting him and inspecting the emigrants with him after he has received the instructions of the Commissioners.

I wish you clearly to understand that the lists so to be prepared and sent by you are to be confined to the four above-mentioned particulars, viz., the classification of the intending emigrants into families, and the name, age, and occupation\* of each; and that the agent will be charged by the Commissioners with the completion of their other forms, when he inspects and interrogates the emigrants (who must be assembled for that purpose when the time arrives) in the presence of yourself and other responsible persons who are acquainted with the people.

The lists may be prepared for a larger number than can be sent to Australia at once, the object being to place the Commissioners in possession of authentic detailed information, with as little correspondence and waste of time as possible, in order that they may act upon it as fast and to as great an extent as may be in their power.

Be so good as to send the lists direct to the Chairman, T. W. C. Murdoch, Esq., 9, Park-street, Westminster, as my communications have all been with him.

I particularly request that you will fully explain to the intending emigrants that they will be required to apply all their available means towards defraying the expense of their outfit and deposits, and that we will make no advance to those who we have reason to suppose have committed the sin of Annanias and Sapphira, and "sold their possessions and kept back part of the price." You must also explicitly inform them that any advance our Society may make to supplement their means, will be as a loan to be repaid in Australia, whether the advance be for assisting them to pay their deposits and outfits, or to pay the passages of those who are more than forty-five years of age.

I inclose a few copies of our appeal to the public, as it has been finally revised and promulgated by the Committee. The subscriptions that have as yet been received will be published towards the end of the week.

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No. 8.

MR. FRASER TO SIR C. TREVELYAN.

Mossbank, Portree, May 18, 1852.

In terms of the arrangement with the Edinburgh Committee, communicated in your favour of the 13th, received to-day, I have directed our Secretary to forward the papers of the accepted emigrants to Edinburgh, in order that the deposits may be at once remitted by the Committee there, direct to the Emigration Commissioners, that being the only course by which the remittance may be in time.

\* This head will not, of course, apply to children.

It did not occur to me to state that the regulations as to repayments, &c., had been complied with in the case of the emigrants already sent off, assuming that it would have been taken for granted by Sir John McNeill and you, that we had not neglected to give effect to the principles which we had adopted for our guidance, and which, I believe, do not differ from those on which your assistance was to be given to us. I send you copy of the Form of Obligation taken. As the obligation comes into operation in a colony where English law holds, I wished to have a form for it sent me from London, and, if I mistake not, adverted to the point in the memorandum left with Mr. Haly. Not having an English form, I drew up the obligation in such terms as seemed to me to be best. Do you think it will serve the purpose?

The rule that no assistance is to be given to persons from estates the possessors of which do not disburse one-third of the expense, must of course receive effect from the local society in applying the funds sent to them; and on the present occasion it compels us to keep back of the 194 accepted emigrants, 4 families numbering 24 souls, from the estate of Skeabost, on which Mr. Christie of Edinburgh is trustee, a gentleman who holds "that there is no obligation, either legal or moral, on the proprietor of an estate, either to support the able-bodied persons who may be located upon it, or to afford them the means of removing elsewhere," and who has consequently refused to contribute. From this estate about 16 families were, I believe, ejected last year, without any attempt to make a provision for them, and about twice the number are, I hear, to be similarly ejected this year. There are none in Skye more wretched than the people on this estate; and it certainly is an aggravation of the wretchedness of their lot that the unwillingness of the proprietor to do his duty to them, should exclude them from participating in the benevolence of others.

As representing the local society, I am not entitled or authorised to say more; but as an individual Member of the Committees in London and Edinburgh, it would be pusillanimous in me to withhold my opinion that the rigid application of the rule referred to is not in accordance with the benevolent principles on which the present movement was based and has been advocated.

#### *Form of Obligation for Repayment of Advances.*

THE Skye Emigration Society having advanced to me  
 £                    in money, and clothing to the value of £                    in order to enable me and  
 my family to emigrate to Australia, upon the condition that the whole amount so advanced, being  
 in all £                    should be repaid by me and my family, in order to be again used by the  
 said Society in assisting other poor persons to emigrate, I hereby bind and oblige myself, on the  
 expiration of twelve months from the date of my landing in Australia, to pay to Thomas Fraser,  
 Esquire, Sheriff-Substitute of Skye, Chairman of the said Society, or to the Chairman of the said  
 Society for the time being, or to any person in Australia duly authorised by such Chairman to  
 receive the same, the said sum of £                    and on the part of my wife and children, I  
 engage that in the event of my not paying the said sum at the time above mentioned, the same  
 shall be repaid by my said wife or children. In witness whereof I have subscribed this obligation  
 (which is written by                    ) by my mark, I being unable to write, at Portree, this  
 fifth day of May, eighteen hundred and fifty-two years, before these witnesses,  
 and

(NOTE—Adult members of families to join in obligation.)

No. 9.

SIR C. TREVELYAN TO MR. FRASER.

May 24, 1852.

I HAVE had the pleasure of receiving your letter dated the 18th instant, with the accompanying form of agreement, to be executed by the emigrants, binding themselves to repay the advances within six months after their landing in Australia. I do not doubt that this obligation will serve its purpose. You will, I presume, hand the agreements over for realisation to the Glasgow houses which will be selected by the Edinburgh Committee as their agents in the colonies, and the same course will probably be followed by the London Committee, when the advances begin to be made by us, and the obligations to be taken in our name. Sir J. McNeill undertook to prepare a form of obligation for the emigrants assisted by us, and I will therefore send him a copy of your form for his consideration.

I am happy to be able to inform you that the Emigration Commissioners will increase the number of their ships, and that they will form an emigration dépôt at Glasgow, and send emigrants direct from that place, if a suitable building can be obtained and ships can be hired on reasonable terms.

The substitution of lists of intending emigrants, to be followed by a personal examination of them on the spot by the Emigration Agent, assisted by yourself and other responsible persons who know the people, in the place of the elaborate forms previously in use, as explained by my letter to you, dated the 17th instant, has reduced our course of proceeding to the utmost practicable

See page 22.

degree of simplicity, and will enable you to forward accepted emigrants to the Glasgow agent as fast as he can obtain ships for them.

As you entertain the opinion that the strict enforcement of the rule, that only those emigrants are to be assisted whose landlords have agreed to pay one-third of the expense, is inconsistent with the benevolent principle on which the present movement is based, you were quite right in expressing it, but I do not agree with you.

In the Island of Skye and the adjacent districts in the islands and on the mainland in which relief was administered by the Edinburgh and Glasgow Committees, there are several thousand families who are in a state of distress, and are anxious to obtain our assistance to go to Australia. The object, therefore, is, to send as many of them as possible in the shortest possible time. There is no breach of charity in selecting one of two families which equally stand in need of assistance; but there would be a great breach of charity, and it would be manifestly inconsistent with the benevolent system on which the present movement is based, if the selection were to be so made as seriously to cripple our resources, and greatly to diminish the whole number who can be assisted to emigrate.

It is also perfectly evident, that unless the rule that the landlord is to pay one-third of the expense, is uniformly enforced, it cannot be enforced at all.

If the subscribers to our fund were burdened with the whole expense of sending to Australia the poor tenants of the Skeabost Estate, we ought in equity to repay the contributions we have already received from proprietors in liquidation of their third part of the expense, and we certainly could not ask for any more such contributions.

Therefore, if the rule that only those emigrants are to be assisted whose landlords agree to pay one-third of the expense, be not strictly enforced, one-third will be at once struck off the amount of our fund.

But the real loss would be much greater than this. There is a sturdy English feeling, that only those persons, whether landlords or tenants, should be helped who are disposed to help themselves, and that everybody should bear his own burden as far as he is able. Even now the prevalence of this feeling is the greatest obstacle with which we have to contend; and if we were to give up the rule that the proprietor whose estate is relieved by the removal of the emigrants is to pay one-third of the expense, we must give up with it the attempt to raise any fund by subscription in this country.

You state that acting upon the above-mentioned rule, you had to keep back of the 194 accepted emigrants, 4 families numbering 24 souls, from the estate of Skeabost, of which Mr. Christie of Edinburgh is trustee; but Sir J. McNeill, in a letter to me dated the 21st instant, states that the Edinburgh Committee had received a communication from your Committee, transmitting letters of advice for the 194 emigrants accepted by the Commissioners, and calling upon them to remit, without loss of a day, the sum necessary to pay their deposits, and that the remittance was made to the Commissioners accordingly.

The apparent discrepancy between these two statements can only be reconciled by supposing that the place of the intending emigrants from Skeabost was filled up by accepted emigrants from other estates the proprietors of which had agreed to pay one-third of the expense; and such, I have no doubt, was the case; but I shall be obliged by your giving me the details of what took place.

It is highly necessary that you should keep, *from the first*, an accurate register of the persons who have been, or shall hereafter be, assisted to emigrate by the Skye, Edinburgh, and London Societies, classing them in families, and showing the name, age, and occupation of each, the sums advanced for deposit and outfit, and the proprietors of the estates from which they were removed; and an account should be opened with the proprietors, in order that the sums due by them in respect of their third may be realized at reasonable intervals, and applied in aid of the Fund; but as it is necessary that you should act in concert with the Edinburgh Committee on these points, I shall send a copy of this letter to Sir J. McNeill, and will request him to communicate with you.

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No. 10.

SIR C. TREVELYAN TO MR. FRASER.

Committee Room of the Highland and Island Emigration Society,  
4, St. Martin's Place, London, June 4, 1852.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Committee to transmit to you a copy of Resolutions which were passed yesterday by the Committee of the Highland and Island Emigration Society, and to inform you that Her Majesty's Emigration Commissioners have agreed to the proposals contained therein, and have determined to depute, at an early date, an emigration agent to Portree, with instructions to act in concert with you in the manner described in the Resolutions.

The Committee request that you will immediately proceed, in accordance with the 2nd Resolution, to prepare lists, classified in families, of all intending emigrants from the estates the proprietors or agents of which have agreed to pay one-third of the expense, and to forward the lists to this Society, after the emigration agent has noted in them what individuals will be provided with free or assisted passages. A separate list should be prepared for each estate.



The Committee also request that you and the gentlemen who are acting with you will give the Emigration Agent all the assistance in your power for the proper discharge of the duties entrusted to him, more especially by furnishing him with detailed information on all points on which he may require it.

The Committee expect to be able to inform you by next post, of the ships to sail from Glasgow and Liverpool with which engagements have been already entered into by the Emigration Commissioners, and of the extent of the accommodation which it will be in their power to assign to emigrants from Skye in the said ships; and the Committee will cause you to be furnished, from time to time, with similar information in regard to ships with which engagements may subsequently be formed.

The Committee desire to point out the great importance, as regards the well-being of the emigrants and the success of this movement, that the intending emigrants should not relax their efforts for their ordinary subsistence, until you shall be enabled to give them positive information that arrangements have actually been made for receiving them on board a particular ship—which information you will yourself receive from the Emigration Commissioners or their authorized agent.

You will exercise your discretion in recommending to the Emigration Agent what families should be included in the number of Emigrants to be assigned to each particular ship; but the Emigration Agent will determine how far he can accede to your recommendation.

The Committee also request that you will carry out in all their details, until you receive further specific instructions on any particular point from this Committee, all the arrangements which have been prescribed by the Edinburgh Committee in respect to the administration of their fund, both as regards the due execution of promissory notes in the form and manner directed by the Edinburgh Committee, and the requiring from intending emigrants a strict account of their means, according to the form of petition and return prescribed by the Edinburgh Committee, and also on every other point upon which you have received instructions from the Edinburgh Committee.

Finally, I am desired to inform you, that the Committee have made an alteration in their 4th Rule, by striking out the following words, "and each emigrant, on repayment of the sum advanced to him, will have the privilege of naming a relation or friend at home who will have a preferable claim to assistance;" and you are requested to inform all intending emigrants that the undertaking of this Society will in future be confined to advancing to them such sums as may be required to supplement their own means for the purpose of enabling them and their families to emigrate, on the condition that the sums so advanced will be repaid to the Society at the earliest practicable date after their arrival in Australia. This alteration will not, however, affect the 54 emigrants who have embarked, or the 194 for whose embarkation arrangements have been already made; nor does it make any change in the principles and object of this Society, it being still intended that the sums repaid shall be again applied in assisting emigrants.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient, humble Servant,

C. E. TREVELYAN,

Chairman.

T. Fraser, Esq.,  
Chairman of the Skye Emigration Committee.

*Copy of Resolutions passed at a Meeting of the Highland and Island Emigration Committee, on Thursday, June 3, 1852.*

THAT a deputation of this Committee wait upon the Emigration Commissioners to represent to them that there is extensive distress in Skye, and urgent need of an immediate emigration of considerable numbers of people from that island; and that the Commissioners be earnestly requested to instruct an Emigration Agent to proceed immediately to Skye, and approve and finally pass for free and assisted passages, the largest practicable number of intending Emigrants included in the lists which the Chairman of the Skye Emigration Committee may have prepared.

That upon the Emigration Commissioners acceding to the above recommendation, the Chairman of the Skye Emigration Committee be informed thereof, and be requested immediately to prepare lists, classed in families, of all intending emigrants from the estates the proprietors or agents of which have agreed to pay one-third of the expense, and to forward the lists to this Society, after he has ascertained from the Emigration Agent, and noted in the lists, what individuals will be provided with free or assisted passages.

And that the Emigration Commissioners be requested to provide ships without delay for all the intending emigrants included in the above-mentioned lists.

No. 11.

SIR C. TREVELYAN TO MR. FRASER.

4, St. Martin's Place, June 4, 1852.

THE instruction contained in the accompanying letter is to prepare lists of *all* intending emigrants from the estates the Proprietors or agents of which have agreed to pay a third part of the expense; and it may be well to state that this is intended to include those persons who are known to possess sufficient means of their own to pay the whole of the expense attending their emigration; for although these persons will not receive *pecuniary* assistance from us, they will, being included in our lists, participate in the benefit of the more simple and compendious process which the Emigration Commissioners have kindly consented to allow in the case of the distressed districts operated upon by our Society.

No. 12.

SIR C. TREVELYAN TO MR. FRASER.

June 5, 1852.

See page 24.

I HAVE now the pleasure of sending you, as promised in my letter of yesterday, a copy of a statement I have received from the Emigration Commissioners, showing that 510 *adult* passages have been allocated to emigrants from Skye, in ships already engaged to sail from Liverpool to Glasgow.

I also send a copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Emigration Commissioners to the Secretary to our Committee, containing further details on the same subject.

These documents, taken together with my letter of yesterday, contain full instructions for your guidance, and we rely upon an exact fulfilment of them.

You will observe that the Emigration Commissioners should have the list of the proposed 150 emigrants for the "*Miltiades*," on or before the 14th instant, it being now the 5th. This, therefore, is a point which requires *immediate* attention, and you must at once select those who are ready to start from estates the Proprietors or agents of which have agreed to pay one-third of the expense. If eligible emigrants are ready who are prepared to pay the whole of their deposit and outfit, they may be included, to whatever estates they may belong.

But although the making up of the batch of emigrants for the "*Miltiades*" requires your immediate attention, it will not be the less necessary for you to proceed without delay to prepare the general list of *all* intending emigrants from the estates the Proprietors of which have agreed to pay the one-third, and to go over that list with the Emigration Agent, and to assist him in his inspection of the persons included in it, as requested in my letter of yesterday's date.

You mentioned in a former letter to me, that you proposed to employ a qualified person on a moderate salary, to give you clerical and other assistance. There will be a pressure upon you at first in carrying out these arrangements; and if you will get such assistance of this sort as may be absolutely necessary, I will answer for its being duly passed in account.

Mr. Murdoch informs me that Mr. Brownrigg cannot be spared from his onerous duties at Glasgow; and that a *special* emigration agent will be appointed to proceed to Skye, to communicate with you. He promises me that there will be no delay in the matter.

I have duly received your letter of the 1st instant, with the accompanying copies of correspondence with Sir John McNeill. I am in constant correspondence with Sir J. McNeill on every point connected with this undertaking; and I have in an especial matter considered with him the question as to contribution of one-third of the expense by the Proprietors; and we are entirely convinced that this rule must be firmly and consistently maintained, for reasons which have been already stated by me;\* and we are fully supported by the Edinburgh and London Committees. There has not been one dissentient voice in the London Committee, and the absolute necessity of the rule has become more apparent as we have acquired additional experience. Sir J. McNeill was still, at the date of my last advice from him, in communication with those agents of Proprietors in Skye who had only given a limited or qualified assent; and if they finally refuse, we shall not abate a jot of the strictness of our rule, and the subject must then go before the Country and Parliament, under circumstances which will render a speedy and decisive remedy inevitable. The offer we make is, that while the Emigration Commissioners pay the bulk of the expense, we undertake to advance two-thirds of the remainder, provided the Proprietors who are interested in the removal of the emigrants agree to pay the other third. The Act of last session by which the Drainage advances were rendered applicable to Emigration, contemplated that the *whole* expense of emigration from the respective properties would be defrayed by the Proprietors, and many Proprietors have, either with or without loans from this fund, assisted persons from their estates to emigrate *entirely at their own charge*. Sir James Mathison, Mr. Alexander Mathison, Mr. Rainy of Raasay, and the Dukes of Sutherland and Argyle, for instance.

\* See Sir C. Trevelyan's Letter to Mr. Fraser, dated the 24th May, pages 23, 24; and also Mr. Fraser's Letters to the Agents of the McLeod, McDonald, and Skeabost Properties, dated in December and January last, pages 7 to 9.

Inclosure 1 in No. 12.

*Memorandum on the Shipping arrangements of the Emigration Commissioners.*

Emigration Office, June 4th, 1852.

Of the fifteen ships which sail between the 1st of June and the 14th of July to Australia, all are full except three, of which the particulars are contained in the table below. It is indispensable to reserve a certain number of berths in two of these ships for persons in various parts of the kingdom, whose money is either actually in the office, or actually arriving at the rate of nearly £400 a day. The whole of the "Georgiana," however, which sails from the Clyde, can be given up (though not without inconvenience) to emigrants from the Isle of Skye.

The Commissioners will receive tenders on Tuesday, for four more ships to sail on the 8th, 12th, 15th, and 19th of July, for Sydney, Portland Bay, Geelong, and Adelaide. But of course it cannot be known beforehand, at what ports these vessels will be tendered to embark their emigrants.

Ships' Names.	Port of Departure.	Destination.	Date to be ready.	Estimated Number Vessel can carry.	Number allotted for Emigrants from Skye.
Miltiades . . . .	Liverpool . .	Melbourne . .	June 30	210*	150
Georgiana . . . .	Glasgow . .	Geelong . .	July 3	260*	260
Chance . . . .	Liverpool . .	Melbourne . .	July 14	300*	100

\* These ships have not yet been measured. The exact numbers cannot therefore be given.

(Signed) S. WALCOTT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 12.

S. WALCOTT, ESQ., SECRETARY TO THE EMIGRATION COMMISSIONERS, TO T. HALY, ESQ.,  
SECRETARY TO THE HIGHLAND AND ISLAND EMIGRATION SOCIETY.

June 4, 1852.

WITH reference to the interview this morning between a Deputation from the Skye Relief Committee and Mr. Murdoch, I am directed by the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners to make to you the following communication.

First. The Commissioners will instruct an agent (either the Emigration Officer at Glasgow, or, if he cannot be spared, some other person) to proceed as soon as possible to Skye, to examine and pass the applicants for passages who may be proposed to him. It is to be understood that this agent will be furnished by Mr. Fraser with a list of those who may be ready for inspection, made out in families, with their ages and callings; that where there are members of a family ineligible under the Commissioners' Rules, either by reason of age or infirmity, but without whom the family will not proceed, the agent will pass the eligible members, on the understanding and condition that the ineligible are to be paid for out of the funds of the Skye Committee. That when the Commissioners shall notify to Mr. Fraser that a ship, or a portion of a ship, is set apart for emigrants from Skye, Mr. Fraser should prepare a list of those whom he would propose to send in her, and submit it to the Commissioners before a day to be specified by them, in order that they may have an opportunity of deciding whether the emigrants can properly be taken as proposed, with reference to the apportionment of children, &c. That in case of the Commissioners desiring to postpone any particular family or families, others shall be substituted in their place by Mr. Fraser. And lastly, that unless the lists are sent in by the day named by the Commissioners, the Commissioners are to be at liberty to consider that the passages in the particular ship in question are not accepted, and to fill them up from other quarters. The object of these rules is sufficiently obvious, without further explanation.

Acting then on this understanding, I am to inform you that the Commissioners have taken up the "Georgiana," to sail from the Clyde on the 3rd of July. She will carry probably about 260 statute adults, counting each person of the age of fourteen, and two persons between the ages of one and fourteen, as an adult; and the Commissioners will be prepared to fill her exclusively with emigrants from Skye. But in order to do so, the Commissioners must be furnished with the list of emigrants to be sent by her before the 18th instant.

The Commissioners have also chartered the "Miltiades," to sail from Liverpool on the 30th instant; and the "Chance," also from Liverpool on the 14th July. In the former, the Commissioners would be prepared to give to Skye emigrants passages for 150 statute adults, and in the latter for 100. But to do so it would be necessary that they should have the list for the "Miltiades" on or before the 14th instant, and for the "Chance" on or before the 28th instant.

The Commissioners propose to take up ships for Sydney, Portland Bay, Geelong, and Adelaide, on Tuesday next, if they can obtain reasonable terms. But it is impossible to say beforehand from what ports ships may be tendered, and whether, therefore, they may be available for Scotch emigrants. On that point the Commissioners will communicate with Mr. Fraser.

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No. 13.

MR. MURDOCH TO SIR C. TREVELYAN.

SIR,

Emigration Office, June 8, 1852.

WITH reference to what passed between a Deputation of the Highland and Island Emigration Society and myself, on Friday last, on the subject of sending an agent to Skye to inspect and pass the persons who may be proposed from that place as emigrants to Australia, I have the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of the Committee, the copy of a letter of instructions addressed by this Board to Mr. Chant, a member of the department now on duty at Birkenhead, directing him to proceed, as soon as he can make arrangements to do so, to Portree, in order to inspect and pass the proposed emigrants.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH.

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Inclosure in No. 13.

MR. WALCOTT TO MR. CHANT.

SIR,

Emigration Office, June 7, 1852.

I AM directed by the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners to inform you that it is the wish of the Commissioners that as soon as you shall have berthed and put on board the emigrants for the "Wanota" and "Europa," you should proceed at once to the Island of Skye, and inspect and pass emigrants who will be presented to you by Mr. Fraser, the Sheriff of the island, acting on behalf of the Society which has been formed in London for assisting emigration from the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. Your easiest route will be by way of Glasgow, from which a steamer will convey you to Portree in Skye. On your arrival at Portree you will at once report your arrival to Mr. Fraser, who will furnish you with a list of the candidates for passages.

You will understand that in the examination and passing of the candidates who will be presented to you, you are to follow the general rules of the Commissioners, with which you are well acquainted, that is to say, you are not to pass any persons who from mental or physical infirmity are unable to earn their own livelihood; who are not of the class which may be expected to work for wages; who exceed forty-five years in age (unless they are ready to pay the increased scale), either with or without the aid of the Highland Emigration Society, or who have more than four children under twelve. In regard to this latter restriction, however, although it will always be necessary to keep it in view, with reference to sanitary considerations, and to the difficulty of getting employment in the Colonies for families with large numbers of young children, the Commissioners would not object to its relaxation in the case of families which in other respects may be peculiarly valuable, by reason of their comprising a number of adult females, or for any other reason.

But besides those who will be submitted to you as candidates for free passages, others will also be brought forward who will be ineligible for assistance by this Board, but who will be allowed to accompany their eligible relatives on payment of their full passage money, with the assistance, when necessary, of the Highland Emigration Society. The Commissioners have agreed to this arrangement, both because without it, it would not have been possible, even if it had been right, to procure the emigration of the younger members of the families, and because the Commissioners hope that the presence of the parents will be an additional motive with their children for steadiness and good conduct, and will tend to prevent their desertion to the gold-fields. But on deciding upon this class, which you will have to do, you will be careful to ascertain that no infirm or aged person, who is unable to maintain himself, is allowed to go out under the auspices of the Commissioners, unless he is accompanied by other members of his family who are able and willing to maintain him. It is no part of the plan of the Commissioners, that aged or infirm persons, not forming part of a family, should be sent out in the Government ships, even though full passage be paid for them.

The Commissioners have informed the Society that 150 passages will be reserved until the 14th instant, in the "Miltiades," from Liverpool; 260 in the "Georgiana," until the 18th instant, from Glasgow; and 100 in the "Chance," until the 28th instant, from Liverpool. These together make, as you will perceive, 510 passages. The Commissioners are led to believe, however, that the number of applicants which will be submitted to you for inspection will be much

more than sufficient to fill these passages, and it will be obviously desirable, to save time and expense, that you should pass as many as possible at once, to be subsequently embarked as ships can be provided. You will of course make out lists of all whom you pass, copies of which you will forward to the Board; and it would be desirable that you should select for the first ships, in concert with Mr. Fraser, the most eligible of the families submitted to you. This is important, both as leaving you at liberty to consult the Board on any cases which may appear doubtful, and in order that a favourable impression may be produced in the Colony by the first arrivals of this class of emigrants.

In conclusion, I am to state that you will be at liberty to charge, while on this service, your actual travelling expenses, with an allowance of 15s. a-day. You will, of course, apprise me fully of your proceedings for the information of the Board.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) S. WALCOTT,  
Secretary.

No. 14.

MR. WALCOTT TO SIR CHARLES TREVELYAN.

June 14, 1852.

WITH reference to my letter of the 4th instant, I have the honor to inform you that we have since taken up several ships, one of which will proceed to Sydney and another to Geelong. In the ship to Sydney, which will sail from Liverpool on the 8th July, we should be prepared to give seventy-five passages to the Skye emigrants, provided we are assured before the 22nd instant that that number of approved persons will come forward. In the ship for Geelong, which is to sail also from Liverpool on the 15th July, we will reserve fifty passages for the Skye emigrants, on receiving the same assurance before the 30th instant.

## VIII.

No. 1.

MR. DONALDSON TO SIR C. TREVELYAN.

13, Austin Friars, May 17, 1852.

REFERRING to the conversation with which you favoured me on Saturday, I now beg leave to bring under your notice the outlines of a comprehensive plan for promoting emigration, the foundation of which is already laid by your Society.

An "Association for assisting Emigration to the Australian Colonies," under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Albert, and the noblemen and gentlemen who are already co-operating with you, might be made to embrace all the following objects:—

1. Relief of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, as already organized by your Society.
2. Relief of the parishes of England, Scotland, and Ireland, from the burden of their able-bodied paupers; and,
3. A continuous self-supporting emigration, on the system already at work under Mrs. Chisholm's auspices.

Under this extended arrangement, Mr. Hume would be able to relieve the distressed hand-loom weavers of Lanarkshire; Mr. Sidney Herbert might transfer his distressed needlewomen to your care; in short, such an association would gradually concentrate, under one comprehensive system, all the philanthropic plans of a kindred nature which have hitherto been doing a certain amount of good, but whose efforts have been limited and desultory, for want of a sufficiently extensive national organization.

If you thought sufficiently well of the above suggestion to bestow some pains in working it into a practical shape, I think you might succeed in forming an association whose labours would confer the most essential service, both upon the Australian Colonies and upon the Mother Country.

The time is propitious. We seem at last to have a Government thoroughly awake to the importance of our Australian possessions. The public is aroused; and it would be a thousand pities to let so much enthusiasm evaporate in misdirected, isolated, or abortive efforts.

SIR C. TREVELYAN TO MR. DONALDSON.

May 20, 1852.

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 17th instant, proposing an extension of the sphere of action of the Highland Emigration Society.

Your object is, I think, already substantially attained. The fund of our Society is reproductive, and its plan is easily capable of being extended to any class of people in any part of the United Kingdom; and if we obtain the encouragement and success we expect, it will be so extended.

But *at present* it seems desirable that our efforts should be concentrated upon the emigration to Australia of the surplus population of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, partly because these people are starving, and must either be fed by charity at home, or be removed by charitable assistance to other countries where they can support themselves, and partly because they constitute the only large supply of suitable labour immediately available to meet the emergency in Australia.

Meanwhile emigration will proceed (no doubt at an accelerated rate) from other parts of the country beside the Highlands; and those who feel that particular intending emigrants or classes of intending emigrants, have special claims upon them, will continue to assist either in their individual capacity or as members of local Emigration Committees; and when the public exigency which, for the reasons above stated, demands the *first* efforts of our society, shall have been in a great degree overcome, it will be our desire to extend our operations in such manner as circumstances may render advisable, to other parts of the United Kingdom.