



## EMIGRANT SHIP "STEBONHEATH."

(PROGRESS REPORT OF IMMIGRATION BOARD UPON CONDUCT OF SURGEON.)

*Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be Printed, 20 April, 1858.*

THE IMMIGRATION BOARD to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

*Government Immigration Office,  
Sydney, 12 March, 1858.*

SIR,

We have the honor to report, for your information, that, in consequence of statements having been made to us at the usual inspection of the Immigrants on board the "Stebonheath" that irregularities had occurred on board that vessel, and that acts of cruelty had been committed by the Surgeon-Superintendent on some of the single Female Immigrants, an investigation has been held at this Office, and has up to the present time occupied the attendance of the Board for a period of six days.

2. Although much evidence has been taken, a great many more witnesses still remain to be examined; but sufficient has been elicited to satisfy the Board that two of the single females, names Ellen Loughborough and Henrietta Jackson, have been imprisoned in a cell erected by direction of the Surgeon-Superintendent for the purpose of punishment, and that they have also been treated with much cruelty, by having been handcuffed and kept under this painful restraint for a period of three days.

3. Nothing having transpired during the inquiry to justify such a proceeding on the part of the Surgeon, we beg to recommend that the Criminal Crown Solicitor be authorized to take such proceedings in the matter as the statements made by these girls will justify for punishing the Surgeon for the acts of impropriety and cruelty he appears to have been guilty of.

4. Other matters of grave importance, affecting the discipline of the ship, conduct of the Officers, and characters of some of the Female Immigrants, are still under inquiry, and as soon as the evidence is in a complete state a full report will be made, for the information of the Government, by the Board.

We have, &c.,

H. H. BROWNE.  
GOTHER K. MANN.  
HAYNES GIBBES ALLEYNE.

THE UNDER SECRETARY to THE AGENT FOR IMMIGRATION.

(Immediate.)

*Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Sydney, 12 March, 1858.*

SIR,

I am directed by the Colonial Secretary to inform you, that, in compliance with the suggestion contained in a letter from the Immigration Board of this date, application has been made to the Crown Law Officers, with a view to such steps as may be necessary being taken by the Criminal Crown Solicitor against the Surgeon of the "Stebonheath" for his treatment of two Female Emigrants, in confining them in a cell, and placing them in handcuffs; and to request that you will therefore place yourself in communication with the Crown Solicitor, to afford him any further information which may be requisite.

I have, &c.,

THE AGENT FOR IMMIGRATION.

W. ELYARD.

## EMIGRANT SHIP "STEBONHEATH."

(REPORT OF BOARD UPON CONDUCT OF SURGEON, MATRON, AND OFFICERS OF.)

*Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be Printed, 13 April, 1858.*

*REPORT of the Immigration Board on the Irregularities which occurred on board the Ship "Stebonheath," and the conduct of the Surgeon-Superintendent, Matron, and Officers of the vessel connected therewith.*

IN drawing attention to their Progress Report of the 12th ultimo, relative to the inquiry then being carried on by them in reference to the ship "Stebonheath," in which they recommended that immediate steps should be adopted for the purpose of legal proceedings being taken by the Government against the Surgeon-Superintendent, for his ill-treatment on the voyage to the single females named in the margin,—the Board have now the honor to submit, for the consideration of the Government, the Minutes of Evidence taken by them, and the following Report, based on that evidence, at which they have arrived, after mature consideration.

Ellen  
Loughborough.  
Henrietta  
Jackson.

2. The evidence, it will be observed, is very voluminous; but not more so, perhaps, than may have been expected from the result of an inquiry of such grave importance as that which could not fail to be attached to the case of the ship "Stebonheath," as brought under the notice of the Agent for Immigration, and by him submitted for the Board's consideration.

3. The ship "Stebonheath" sailed from Plymouth with Emigrants destined for this Colony, on the 30th September last, under the command of Captain Connell, and the Medical superintendence of Mr. Rowland.

4. Amongst the Emigrants despatched by this vessel were about one hundred and fifty single females, who were entrusted during the voyage to the custody of Miss Jane Chase, who was appointed to that charge by the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners.

5. The Ship had not been many days at sea when she encountered a frightful gale of wind, which so completely disabled her that she was obliged to bear up for Pauillac, a small seaport town on the coast of France, about 30 miles distant from Bordeaux, where she was re-fitted and re-provisioned, and from whence she sailed on the 1st November last, for this Port, which she reached on the 27th February, after a protracted voyage of upwards of five months.

6. On her arrival in this Port she appeared to be in good order, and at the ordinary inspection by the Immigration Board the only complaints made were as follows:—

- (1.) A man, named McDonald, complained that he had been taken by the collar, and turned on deck by the Surgeon-Superintendent; and,
- (2.) Two constables, named Bergin, informed the Board that they had been displaced from their offices, the cause for which they requested might be inquired into.

7. The Surgeon-Superintendent at the same time made several grave charges against the Master and Officers of the vessel; and added, in his conversation with the Agent for Immigration, that, in consequence of the marked insubordinate conduct of some of the single female Immigrants under his care, he had been obliged to confine some of them in a prison which he had necessarily constructed for the purpose, and that, on two occasions, he had to place the offenders in handcuffs.

8. It having appeared to the Board that the punishment inflicted on the females referred to above was of an excessively arbitrary character, they felt that no other course was open to them than to adjourn the further inquiry into the circumstances of the case, with a view to afford the parties implicated an opportunity of justifying the line of conduct pursued by them.

9. Previously to the Board leaving the vessel, a letter was handed to them, a copy of which will be found in the Appendix, page 3, signed T. G. Kemp, which contained a distinct charge against the Surgeon-Superintendent of imprisoning, and otherwise ill-treating, two of the unmarried Immigrant girls, named Loughborough and Jackson.

10. Mr. Kemp was informed that the Board would meet on the following day, and that he should then have a full opportunity of preferring his complaint. In consequence, however, of the rather unexpected death of one of the single females, named Ann Cox, which necessitated the holding of an inquest on the body, the Board were obliged to postpone the initiation of the inquiry to the 5th ultimo.

11. As a consequence to be expected, the Surgeon-Superintendent, Dr. Rowland, was officially informed by this department that an inquiry would be held by the Immigration Board into the irregularities which occurred on board the ship "Stebonheath," and that, pending such inquiry, none of the gratuities payable to himself, the officers, or subordinates would be discharged until the decision of the Government had been obtained thereon.

12. Previously to a meeting of the Board, a statement was made by one of the single females, named Ellen Loughborough, to the Reverend Dean O'Connell, of the ill-treatment which she had received during the passage at the hands of the Surgeon-Superintendent; and that statement, as reduced to writing, will be found in the Minutes of the first day.

13. That statement, as well as other facts brought under the notice of the Board, induced them to afford every means in their power to all parties interested in the inquiry to produce such evidence before them as was calculated to elucidate the facts connected with the occurrences during the passage of the "Stebonheath" to this port; and although, for obvious reasons, it has not been customary to admit at such inquiries the presence of persons whose interests are not indented therewith, an exception was made in this case by the Board, and they therefore felt themselves justified in departing from the ordinary course, by inviting the attendance at their proceedings of the Reverend Mr. Agnew, the Church of England Chaplain attached to the department, and also that of the Very Reverend Dean O'Connell, who ministered to the requirements of the Roman Catholic females who arrived by the vessel.

14. Both these gentlemen kindly attended during the inquiry, and interrogated many of the witnesses on points which elicited from them much information that might probably have otherwise escaped the attention of the Board.

15. The first complaint entertained by the Board was that made by the Surgeon-Superintendent, to the effect that some of the medical comforts—such as porter, milk, sago, mutton broth, lime juice, wine, &c.—were deficient in quantity, and that the Master and Officers of the vessel maintained little or no control over the crew, whose general conduct was of a most insubordinate character; the result of which was, that all his endeavors to uphold the Commissioners' Regulations for the prevention of intimacy between them and the single females was rendered nugatory, not only by the want of firmness on the part of the Master, but also by the bad example shewn by the 2nd and 3rd Mates in violating those Regulations, and associating on terms of equality with the seamen of the vessel.

16. On behalf of the owners, the agent of the vessel, Mr. Ford, attended in reference to the alleged deficiency in the medical comforts; and although he admitted that he could not correctly account for the disposal of some of the articles which were represented to be deficient, he nevertheless assured the Board that all the requirements of the Charter Party had been strictly complied with previously to the vessel leaving England, and that the

owners sent their ship's husband to Pauillac to supply any deficiencies which may have been occasioned by reason of the disastrous circumstances attendant on her encounter with the heavy gale which she had the misfortune to fall in with shortly after her departure from England, and that all the articles, the short supply of which was complained of, were made good from the Captain's private stores, so long as he had any remaining on hand, after due allowance being made for the injury done to them by the influence of the weather, or the pillage of the crew during the storm.

17. Of the conduct of the Master and Officers, the evidence goes clearly to prove that the Master, Mr. Connell, was a good tempered person, but that when his interference was sought for, he afforded it with apparent reluctance, although he could not have been unaware of the fact that his crew were, as a body, most insubordinate in their general conduct.

18. The Chief Officer, Mr. Dray, deserves considerable credit for the firmness which he displayed during the voyage; as, although during the greater part of it he suffered seriously from the effects of an injury which he received in the gale already referred to, he nevertheless adopted every means within his power to prevent the formation of intimacies between the crew and the female Emigrants; the consequence of which was, that he became so obnoxious as to render it necessary that, during his watch, he was obliged to carry a pistol about his person for self-preservation.

19. The Second Officer, although not chargeable with having in any way mixed himself up with the single females, nevertheless set so bad an example, by walking the deck and smoking with the boatswain and carpenter, as to put it completely out of his power to suppress the outrages committed on the Matron, which usually occurred during his watch, and when she had pieces of rope or spunyarn thrown from aloft at her, and on some occasions tobacco juice discharged on her.

20. The Third Mate's conduct is deserving of the most extreme censure, for he appears to have sought every opportunity of violating the conditions of the Charter Party, which forbids intercourse of any kind between the officers and crew and the female passengers; and it has been proved that he was prevented, on one occasion, from having sexual intercourse with a girl named Elizabeth Bullin, by the presence of a sick girl in the female apartment, whom he had not observed at the time, but who made an immediate report of the occurrence to the Matron, which led to the removal of the offending girl.

21. Of the crew, the conduct of many was very bad, some having taken opportunities during the gale of intruding themselves into the single women's apartment; one (the Captain's cook) having gone so far as to get into bed with one of the girls, and to lay his hand on her person, and another, named Sullivan, to get behind the bed places for the purpose of communicating with a girl with whom he was known to have kept up a previous correspondence. Others of them have frequently visited the married people's apartment, for the purpose of speaking to the girls through the louvre partition, and a correspondence between them and the single females was detected to have existed to such an extent as to lead to the supposition that the bulkshead was often removed, and the zinc on the skylights and water-closets destroyed, for the purpose of furthering their evil designs.

22. From the evidence adduced, it appears that in consequence of misconduct on the part of several of the single females, the Surgeon-Superintendent caused a prison to be erected in the female hospital, for the purpose of confining any of the female Immigrants who might become refractory. The prison represented, as nearly as possible, two upright boxes or cells, of not more than two feet square, with holes at the top for ventilation, but was unprovided with seats or any other means to enable the parties confined in them to take rest. In this prison, it has been proved that no less than nine single females were confined at various periods during the voyage, and also one single man. The term for imprisonment appeared to vary from two hours to four days; and in the cases of the girls Loughborough and Jackson, and the single man named Albert Thomas, the use of handcuffs was had recourse to.

23. The imprisonment of Loughborough and Jackson was accompanied by acts of extreme cruelty, their hands having been handcuffed behind their backs until they became swollen, and the girls themselves reduced to a very exhausted state.

24. The evidence, it appears to the Board, goes to prove that there may have been necessity for the infliction of some punishment on certain of the single females during the passage,

passage, as in the case of one girl who was confined for striking her companion, and in that of another for threatening the lives of some of the young women, and using a knife on the occasion referred to; but it does not appear to them that there was any justification for the extreme cruelty exercised in most of the cases, particularly those of Loughborough and Jackson, whose refusal to perform a task set by the Matron cannot in any way be held to warrant their incarceration, and the other ill-treatment to which they had been subjected.

25. Mr. Rowland, the Surgeon-Superintendent of the "Stebonheath," had previously made six voyages to the Colonies in charge of Emigrants despatched by the Commissioners; and as they were usually characterized by successful results, it is the more to be regretted that on this, his seventh voyage, he should so far have forgotten himself, as he has undoubtedly done.

26. From the statement made by him before the Board, it will be seen that from the commencement of the voyage he had much to contend with, owing to the advantages taken of him by the crew during the gale, as well as by their subsequent misconduct whilst at Pauillac, and during the remainder of the passage. It is quite clear, however, that during the voyage, on three occasions at least, Mr. Rowland appeared to have been under the influence of liquor, and that whilst so he forgot the position which he ought to have maintained on board. The instances to which they refer are:—

(1st.) When he turned out the single men from their berths on the port side in the night to trim the ventilator.

(2nd.) When he fell into the water at Pauillac; and

(3rd.) When he most injudiciously interfered on one occasion whilst the provisions were being served out in the hold.

27. There can be little doubt that most of these errors have been brought about by the erroneous opinion which he entertained of his own importance, and of the authority with which he considered himself invested by the Commissioners' Regulations, as well as by the instructions contained in the Queen's Order in Council in reference to passenger ships.

28. Dr. Rowland has been proved on all occasions, where the rights of the Emigrants were concerned, to have acted with the greatest propriety, and to have checked all acts of insubordination, or attempts to indulgence, on the part of the Emigrants in the use of profane language. In the discharge of his Medical duties there does not appear to be any ground for complaint, if the Board except the cases of Macdonnell's wife and the young woman Ann Cox; and it is, therefore, to be regretted that his absence from the Board meetings, at the close of their inquiry, should have obliged them to deal with these, as well as the other cases of complaint against him, without his being afforded an opportunity of explaining his conduct in respect to them, which his sudden disappearance has prevented the Board from granting to him.

29. The sudden removal of the man Macdonnell from the 'tween decks is reprehensible, as a less arbitrary course might have been adopted to induce him to remain on deck until the 'tween decks had been properly cleaned. The Board are also of opinion that his dismissal of two of his constables was not justified by the offence which they had committed.

30. In respect to the Matron, Miss Chase, it appears to the Board that from the very time of her appointment to the "Stebonheath" she entered upon her duties with fear and trembling, owing to the conduct of some of the single females during their conveyance by rail from London to Plymouth, which caused her to be suspicious as to what might be the result of such conduct when subjected to the temptations of a sea voyage. These anticipated results became apparent in the early part of the voyage, and were, doubtless, accelerated by the advantages which the disorder consequent on the gale, as well as the absence of all exertion on the part of the Master to control his crew, afforded to the ill-disposed on board.

31. In dealing with the Matron's case, it must be borne in mind that the punishment of imprisonment inflicted on the girls by the Surgeon-Superintendent was, in most cases, caused by a disobedience on their part to carry out the instructions issued to them by the Matron, and this fact, coupled with the unguarded testimony given by her at the inquest on the girl Cox, has, as may have been supposed likely to occur, caused much ill-feeling towards her; and statements have been made which, if at all borne out, would tend to exhibit her conduct in a most unsatisfactory light.

32. The evidence taken by the Board entirely removes this impression from their minds; and, although she may, in cases of excitement when meeting with much opposition to her orders, have spoken harshly to the girls, she does not, in the opinion of the Board, appear to have been guilty of indulging in the use of insulting epithets, or of making allusions of a coarse or improper character. The strongest evidence in the Matron's favor on these points will be found in the statements to the Board by several of the girls who had been imprisoned in consequence of disobedience to her orders, and who speak of her not only in the kindest manner, but express contrition for the conduct of which they were guilty, and for making groundless charges against her.

33. After a careful perusal of the evidence given against the Matron before the Board, it will be seen that it should be received with great caution, as, in most instances, it was put forth by Immigrants, each of whom considered, however erroneously, that she had just grounds for complaining of the Matron's conduct towards her; for instance, a Mrs. Bailey believed that as she had paid a portion of her passage money she ought to be exempt from the duties of cleaning or the necessity for attending muster. Ellen Loughborough considered herself unjustly treated in being called upon to perform some task for taking the part of her friend Ann Jackson; and Mrs. Lewis felt aggrieved because she had been removed from the office of nurse, and was on her arrival reported by the Matron to have obtained a passage to the Colony under false certificates, in which she and her daughter were represented to be single women and sisters, whilst the fact is, that she was coming to the Colony accompanied by her daughter, for the purpose of joining her husband, who had a short time previously arrived in this Port by another vessel in the capacity of a sailor. It will thus be seen that whilst those persons abstain from awarding her any credit at all, those who had, in some instances suffered punishment from her ideas of discipline, nevertheless give her credit for the course she adopted, and for the example she set to uphold morality amongst them, and, as far as possible to restrain the erring portion of her charge from the temptations to which they were exposed.

34. In so far, therefore, the Board consider the conduct of the Matron to have been most exemplary; but they are, nevertheless, constrained to think that, notwithstanding the intercession she appears to have made to induce the Surgeon to release from confinement the girls who were placed in the cells, she ought to have gone still farther, by giving up immediate charge as Matron rather than to have tacitly sanctioned the perpetration by the Surgeon-Superintendent of acts of cruelty towards any of the females under her charge. In not adopting such a course she appears to us to have assented (although, according to her own views, innocently,) to the course of punishment adopted by Dr. Rowland.

35. With the exception of about one hundred single females, the Emigrants consisted of persons who had obtained passages to the Colony under the Remittance Regulations; and, as far as the Board have been able to judge, they appeared a respectable class of persons. They made no complaints at the time of the Board's inspection of them as to any misconduct on the part of the Surgeon or Officers of the vessel towards them; and it is clear that they did not intend doing so, until the publication of the evidence taken at the inquest on Ann Cox, which informed the public of the irregularities which had occurred on board the "Stebonheath," and they naturally felt that their characters were thereby compromised, not only on account of the scenes of immorality brought to light, but also for withholding from the authorities here information of the serious outrages that had been committed on some of the single females. They were still further annoyed because it was asserted that they assisted the sailors of the vessel in having access to the single females through their apartment.

36. For concealing from the Board in their first examination of them the ill-treatment which some of the Immigrants received, much blame must still attach to them, but in respect to the charge, that they were instrumental in assisting the sailors in their communications with the single females, the Board consider the charge to be entirely refuted by the evidence. In recording this acquittal, the Board feel it right to observe, that they are far from satisfied that the Immigrants referred to took any steps to send the sailors out of their apartment; but this may have been caused by a fear, on their part, of annoyance from an insubordinate crew, with whom they were naturally undesirous of bringing themselves into collision.

37. Of the single females who formed a very large proportion of the Immigrants by the "Stebonheath," a considerable number obtained passages under the Remittance Regulations. These were mostly from Ireland, and their conduct, it has been clearly proved, was most tractable and orderly during the voyage, the Matron herself having stated to the Board that she received no trouble at their hands. It would be subject of gratification to the Board if they could say the same of the females selected through the Commissioners' Agents; but they regret that it has been proved that the conduct of a portion of these girls was characterized by a levity of manner, as well as a spirit of insubordination, most detrimental to them; and the Board consider that in controlling these females the Matron and Surgeon are alike entitled to credit for their firmness, which, if at all relaxed, could scarcely have failed to bring about the most disastrous results.

38. As almost all the single females by this vessel have either been handed over to their friends or provided with situations, the Board consider it undesirable to particularize by name any of those who may have exhibited levity of conduct, trusting, as they do, that such may not be attributable to previous habits of dissipation, but rather to mistaken ideas of their position on board. It may be right to add, that these observations are intended to apply to a small portion only of the single females, and that they are not therefore to be taken as a justification for the very wholesale condemnation which has been so undeservedly cast upon them all alike.

39. The Board consider this a fitting place in their Report to record their opinion that the two girls Loughborough and Jackson, who had been imprisoned for so lengthy a period, were not punished for any act of immorality or attempt on their part to associate with the crew of the vessel,—the act for which Jackson was punished having been a simple breach of manners on her part towards the Matron, and that of Loughborough being an attempt on her part to shield her friend, Jackson, from punishment.

40. It is not attempted to be shown that the conduct of either of these girls was at any time improper, but, on the contrary, they are spoken of in terms of praise; and it will be seen from a perusal of the evidence that the girl Jackson acted as servant to the Matron, and that she evinces a very kind spirit towards those persons by whom she was so seriously ill-treated.

41. The Board have devoted considerable attention to discover, as far as possible, the circumstances connected with the death of Ann Cox; and they regret to be obliged to report that the case appears to them to be surrounded with a great amount of mystery. They feel themselves justified in recording their opinion that not only was there an amount of professional ignorance manifested by the Surgeon in reference to this case, but that there was also most culpable neglect on his part, as well as that of the Matron, in not more closely watching the cause of the disease; and, considering the delicate state of health in which Ann Cox was admitted to be on the arrival of the vessel, and removal of the single females therefrom to the Institution at Hyde Park Barracks, an amount of forgetfulness, as well as carelessness, in respect to this girl has been proved, which is in no way justified by any extent of confusion or excitement consequent on such removal.

42. Perhaps the most lamentable part of this girl's case is the stigma which has been attached to her memory in consequence of the testimony of Dr. Macfarlane at the inquest—that she was at the time of her death in an incipient state of pregnancy.

43. In deference to the opinion expressed by so experienced a practitioner as Dr. Macfarlane, the Board have not thought it advisable to invite any further medical evidence on this point, but they think it due to the girl to record their opinion that, with the exception of a breach of the regulations committed by her in the early part of the voyage, by going into the apartment of the single men, there is nothing to justify the belief that she was other than a person of virtuous habits. And, bearing in mind the extreme watchfulness of the Matron in respect to communications between the single females and the male passengers or crew of the vessel, the Board can hardly believe that any opportunity for the commission of the offence imputed to her had existed, unless it was when she was left in her own apartment the day prior to her death; and it is, therefore, in their opinion, scarcely to be presumed that had such an act as that referred to been then committed, sufficient traces of conception would have been observable to justify a distinct opinion that such had been the case.

45. In respect to the fulfilment of the Charter Party, the Board are of opinion that the owners are in no way blameable for the deficiencies which occurred in the provisions, medical comforts, and other stores, as they appear not only to have provided the vessel amply with them before she left Plymouth, but also to have sent their ship's husband to France to supply her with such additional stores as appeared to be requisite to make up deficiencies.

46. The Board, therefore, beg to recommend the issue of a certificate of the fulfilment of the Charter Party, in the usual form, to secure the payment to the owners of the second moiety of the passage money.

47. In respect to the gratuity which the Master of the vessel would be entitled to receive had his conduct been satisfactory to this Government, it appears to the Board that, although he has not by any direct act committed a breach of the regulations, or connived at the ill-conduct of his crew, he has exhibited a want of firmness and decision in the control of his crew and his officers which has added much to the difficulties of the voyage. The Board do not, therefore, feel themselves justified in recommending that he should receive payment of his gratuity.

48. The conduct of the Third Officer clearly disqualifies him for any claim to his gratuity; and he should, in their opinion, be reported to the Commissioners as a person who ought not again to be employed in the service.

49. Of the Chief Officer, Mr. Dray, the Board are glad to be able to speak most favorably. He was, it would appear, severely injured during the gale, from the effects of which it was evident he was suffering whilst under examination by the Board; to whom his conduct, in his continued exertions to perform his duty and prevent intimacies between the sailors and the females, appears most creditable. By the good example he set, and authority he exercised during his watch, a bad feeling was engendered by the crew towards him; and he therefore stood almost alone as the preserver of order amongst the Officers. The Board have, therefore, much pleasure in recommending that he should receive payment of his gratuity.

50. It is much to be regretted that a person possessed of the experience which Dr. Rowland undoubtedly obtained in the service, should have allowed himself to have been the originator of such a series of cruelties towards persons placed under his protection as this investigation discloses.

51. It is clear that, although he may have had much to contend with in the management of the Emigrants, when unsupported by the Officers of a vessel manned by a mutinous crew, nothing has transpired to justify the course he adopted, in enforcing obedience by a system of imprisonment and accompanying cruelty, which appears to have been inflicted on some of the best conducted girls, and in no instance on those who were discovered in the fore-castle, or in the commission of other acts of serious impropriety.

52. Although not forgetful of his previous good qualities, in the discharge of his duties as Surgeon-Superintendent, the Board have no hesitation in arriving at the conclusion that his conduct on this occasion leaves them no other course than to recommend that, in addition to any prosecution to which he may have laid himself open, he should be deprived of his gratuity, of his allowance of his return passage to England, and be reported to the Commissioners as a person who should not be employed again in their service.

53. Of the Matron's conduct, and her participation in the course pursued by the Surgeon, the Board now proceed to submit their opinion; and they regret that they cannot, after a careful consideration of her case, acquit her of blame. She, probably, may have erred from a wish not to interfere with the Surgeon's authority; but she has not identified herself with any remonstrance, however simple, which would tend to prove that the course of punishment adopted by the Surgeon did not meet with her approval. Miss Chase had doubtless an important and onerous duty to perform; and, feeling the extent of her responsibility, and the danger that some of the girls were exposed to, she properly adopted a system of discipline for the prevention of irregularities; and had this discipline been unattended with the severe tasks imposed on the girls, or had these tasks been imposed after a careful consideration of the circumstances connected with the cases to which they referred, her conduct would have  
been



been irreproachable; but it is evident to the Board, that too great severity was exercised by her in some cases, and a degree of partiality exhibited in others, which resulted in the formation of jealousies and bad feelings, on the part of several of the girls, towards herself.

54. Although not unmindful of the good example set by her to the females under her charge, and the anxiety she evinced in providing for their comfort, and for their moral and religious instruction, without reference to creed, the Board feel that they cannot, after what has occurred, recommend her for future employment; but they consider themselves justified in recommending that she should receive payment of her gratuity, and be allowed the means of reaching England to join her friends.

55. In reference to the minor officers, who acted in the capacity of schoolmaster, constables, &c., the Board are of opinion that, bearing in mind the fact of their being almost all married men, and that they have only now come forward with their testimony, in consequence of their own characters being assailed, they ought to be deprived of their gratuities for making deliberate false statements, in withholding the information in their possession in respect to the arbitrary conduct of the Surgeon Superintendent.

56. In concluding this Report, the Board desire to state that, after they communicated to the Surgeon that they had recommended to the Government that he should be prosecuted criminally for the assault committed by him on the girls Loughborough and Jackson, he never again appeared before them, and, it is presumed, therefore, that he has absconded, to evade the penalty for his offence. Of this circumstance the Board cannot but express their regret, as the course they adopted may be naturally urged to have afforded the Surgeon the opportunity for his escape; but feeling, as they did, that not only was the future welfare of the Immigrants by this vessel, but also the interests of the Colony, they deem it unadvisable to delay this inquiry, as little or none of the information which they have obtained could have been taken at a trial for the assault,—to the circumstances connected with which the evidence would necessarily have been confined,—and so the case would have been still left in the same unsatisfactory state as that which resulted from the inquiry at the inquest on the death of Ann Cox.

H. H. BROWNE.  
GOTHER K. MANN.  
HAYNES GIBBES ALLEYNE.

*Government Immigration Office,  
Sydney, 12 April, 1858.*