

The South Australian Register.

ADELAIDE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1848.

THE EMIGRANT SHIP "HARPLEY."

THIS fine colonial-built ship took her departure from Deptford on the 12th May, and sighted Kangaroo Island on Tuesday the 29th August, at four in the morning. Remarkably inauspicious weather retarded the arrival within our harbour precincts, and eventually obliged Captain Buckland to trust to his cables and anchors in Holdfast Bay. During the terrific gale on Friday night the twice parting of the small bower cable obliged the Captain to have recourse to a chain cable on board, on freight, which by the help of the emigrants was got up and happily rendered conducive to the safety of the ship, the best bower holding on in the meantime, and confirming the good repute of the "holding ground" at the anchorage.

The circumstantial history of the bulk of the emigrants per *Harpley*, is worthy of a particular notice.

With the exception of six families, those on board the *Harpley* had been employed in French lace manufactories in or near Calais, some of them having been there eight years since they left their native place, Nottingham. At the out-break of the French revolution the popular fury soon extended to the hitherto peaceful abodes of the refugees, and the cry of "*à bas les Anglois*" (down with the English) would possibly have been followed by actual and violent expulsion but for the timely interference of the Consul, who besought the insurgents at least to respect the persons of the English workmen. At that time the number of English working for or dependant upon manufacturing employers in Calais and its environs was nothing short of a thousand souls; of whom some have gone to Sydney, a few more are coming hither, and a ship-load were to embark at Calais for Port Phillip, a fortnight after the *Harpley* left.

In their extremity the English workpeople in Calais not willing to return to their native town of Nottingham, or any other part of the overstocked English labour-market, sent a memorial to Lord Palmerston, dated April 12, desiring to obtain passages to one of the English colonies, and a large number wishing to make choice of South Australia, of which they professed to have heard through our "Voice." In three days an answer was returned by his lordship, and a government Commissioner arrived to make the requisite enquiries. He was immediately succeeded by Mr Cooper, a gentleman from the Office of her Majesty's Land and Emigration Commissioners, who instituted diligent scrutiny into the characters and circumstances of the memorialists, and then arranged for their passage to England, preparatory to emigration for these colonies. On their arrival in London they learned that a benevolent Committee was sitting daily at the Mansion House, under the auspices of that genuine specimen of nobility the distinguished Lord Ashley, and eagerly engaged in getting up a generous subscription to which the town of Nottingham contributed £300 to £400 for

the relief of those who were hourly compelled to return to England from the French territory. The objections of the Commissioners to send lace-makers and their families to a young colony like South Australia were compromised by an allowance of £5 per head from the subscription fund, and an engagement to provide a good outfit,

The details were then arranged, and the

Harpley appointed, the emigrants embarked, and soon the poop of the ship, to use our informant's words, was "transformed into a haberdasher's shop," from which everything necessary was gratuitously and unsparingly supplied to those who were in need; Mr Cooper being charged with Lord Ashley's princely commands to let the unfortunates want for nothing. Mr Commissioner Wood visited them at Gravesend previous to their departure, addressed to them an admirable speech full of kindness and encouragement, assuring them they were proceeding to a land where honesty and industry seldom failed to find their proper reward.

The only instance of death among the adults was an aged and ailing man (in his 67th year) who was unwilling to be separated from his family, and to whom the Commissioner humanely granted a free passage. He died in traversing the Bay of Biscay, the only instance of mortality besides, being a delicate infant of three months old. A sea-apprentice and a young sailor named Bateman fell overboard during the passage, but both were saved by a well-directed life-buoy until they could be picked up. During the passage the ship only sighted the Cape Verd Islands and St. Pauls. The passengers, who were scarcely becalmed on the Line, suffered little from heat in the Tropics, and as little from cold in the Southern Hemisphere, 39½ S. being the most southerly latitude attained. There was no case of serious illness during the greater part of the passage, and 256 souls have arrived in excellent health, in a remarkably clean and well-commanded ship; manned by a fine crew. During the passage Mr Spencer the Surgeon-Superintendent read prayers every Sabbath when the weather permitted.

We have seen in the hands of the refugee Emigrants, some of the certificates granted by employers and municipal officers in France, and they speak well for the character of the people, who we hope will find they have exchanged the inhospitable treatment of the French for a hearty welcome in a British colony. Theirs is an instance calling for especial sympathy and spirited exertion on behalf of the colonists, and we shall much mistake if the newly-arrived do not in their case confirm the assurance, that any honest men and women who venture to South Australia with their offspring, will be likely to find the right hand of fellowship extended towards them, in a land of peace and plenty.

We have elsewhere published the names, and shall be exceedingly glad to assist, through our office, in facilitating engagements between employers and those who assure us they are anxious to make themselves useful in any capacity.