

1852.

VICTORIA.

IMMIGRANT SHIPS INVESTIGATION BILL.

*Ordered by the Council to be printed, 30th July, 1852.*

C. J. LA TROBE,

*Message No. 13.*

*Lieutenant Governor.*

1. The Lieutenant Governor holds it his duty, to call the attention of the Council to a suggestion made by the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with regard to the propriety of securing Evidence in cases of grave investigation into alledged irregularities on board of Government Emigrant Ships under the sanction of an Oath.

2. To this end he transmits for the consideration of the Council, the draft of "*A Bill to facilitate investigations respecting certain cases on board Immigrant Ships.*"

3. Extract from a Despatch from the Secretary of State, dated 28th February, 1851:—"The Witnesses I observe were not sworn. Probably this may be the general practice, but it seems to me that in enquiries of this nature the safeguard of an Oath, if it can be legally administered, would be very desirable, in order to render false witnesses liable to the penalties of perjury, and I should recommend the passing of an Act, if necessary, for that purpose."

*Government Offices,*

*Melbourne, 30th July, 1852.*

Melbourne:

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