

1853.

VICTORIA.

SCOTTISH EMIGRATION SOCIETY.

PETITION.

Ordered by the Council to be printed, 1st November, 1853.

UNTO THE HONORABLE THE GOVERNOR AND EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS OF
THE PROVINCE OF VICTORIA OR PORT PHILLIP.

*The Memorial of the Undersigned, for themselves, and on behalf of the other Members
of the Scottish Australian Emigration Society at Glasgow,*

HUMBLY SHEWETH,

That the "Scottish Australian Emigration Society" was established in the month of February last, and at the present date (7th May, 1853), numbers 487 adult members, and 208 children, equal to 104 adults, and making 695 souls in all.

That the Society is divided into two classes of members: first, those who are able, and who have agreed to deposit in the City of Glasgow Bank, per adult, either at once or by instalments, the sum of five pounds sterling, and whose object it is to obtain assisted passages to Australia, either from the Home or Colonial Government; and, secondly, those who cannot pay anything, and who therefore wish free passages.

That the Society, some time ago, memorialised the Right Honorable the Earl of Aberdeen, Premier; Lord Palmerston, Home Secretary; His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, Colonial Secretary; and the rest of Her Majesty's Ministers, praying for free or assisted passages to Australia. This Memorial, which was specially recommended by Sir John McNeill, G.C.B., Chairman of the Board of Supervision of the Poor in Scotland; William Lockhart, Esq., M.P. for the County of Lanark; Sir Archibald Allison, Bart., Sheriff of the said County; and by the Rev. Dr. McLeod, Minister of St. Colombo, Glasgow, Her Majesty's Colonial Chaplain for Scotland,—was referred, along with the relative lists of members, to the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners; and by a letter received from Mr. Frederic Peel, Under Colonial Secretary, dated 30th April last, the Society are informed, that such portion of the members as "do not appear *prima facie* objectionable," will receive free passages, and will be communicated with through the usual agency of the Commissioners.

That the members who compose the 2nd division or class of the Society, are principally hand loom weavers, who cannot save from their earnings anything wherewith to defray any part of their passages. Persons of this class of working men are excluded from the privilege of free passages; and the Memorialists apprehend they are the parties alluded to, who *prima facie* are objectionable in the eyes of the Commissioners.

With respect to this class, the Memorialists beg leave to refer to the accompanying copy of a letter addressed by Mr. Michael Gilfillan, Secretary of the Weavers' Association of Scotland, to Sir John McNeill, as to the circumstances of the weaving trade in Scotland, and the condition of persons employed in it. The Memorialists would also respectfully refer to the printed copy of the plan and object and rules of the Society, which likewise accompany this Memorial; and they would express the hope, that under the new regulations which, they are informed, either are already adopted, or are about to be adopted, for the disposal of the Land Revenue of the Colony of Victoria, and for the management of emigration from this country, your Honors will not overlook the claims of the members of this Society to the benefit of a participation in whatever funds you may appropriate, or set aside for the purposes of emigration; and that such of the members as may not get free passages from the Commissioners, will be enabled to emigrate by means afforded by you.

That your Memorialists accordingly pray that your Honors may be pleased to give this Memorial your favorable consideration, and that you will grant the members of this Society, who may not be selected by the Commissioners in this country, free or assisted passages to Victoria; and on such terms, and agreeably to such regulations, as you may appoint.

And as in duty bound your Memorialists will ever pray.

(Here follow ten signatures.)