

1856.

VICTORIA.

HEALTH OFFICER.

REPORT

FOR THE HALF-YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1855.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S COMMAND.

By Authority:

JOHN FERRES, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.

SCHEDULE OF RETURNS.

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No. I.

TOTAL Number of Vessels boarded by the Health Officer.

July	42
August	30
September	...	...	...	...	...	28
October	...	...	...	...	...	31
November	...	...	...	...	...	35
December	...	...	...	...	...	54
Total	...	...	...	...	...	220

No. II.

LIST of Passenger Vessels from the Port of London.

Name of Vessel.	Tonnage.	Number of Days.	Number of Passengers.	Deaths.	Crews.	Deaths.
Hope ...	819	97	166	5	50	
Wycliff ...	368	127	...	...	15	
Anolite ...	911	82	20	...	32	
Kent ...	997	72	186	...	56	
Amsterdam ...	869	113	64	...	34	
Caledonia ...	444	99	2	...	17	
Nyverheid ...	669	119	27	...	23	
Admiral ...	787	91	28	...	31	
Charlotte Anne ...	450	90	...	...	20	
Brilliant ...	540	113	15	...	32	
Nugget ...	1128	90	29	...	32	
Kensington ...	800	112	40	...	53	
Statesman ...	874	105	100	1	42	
Cornwall ...	580	115	59	...	25	
Caractacus ...	899	121	...	...	26	
Adelaide ...	492	111	...	...	19	
Sussex ...	960	82	90	...	44	1
Blackwall ...	830	107	39	...	55	
Aallotar ...	504	112	1	...	24	
Derwent ...	404	133	...	...	16	
Grecian Queen ...	203	121	1	...	12	
Queen of the Seas ...	1337	89	87	1	53	
Anglesey ...	1018	87	70	...	60	1
Auguste and Meline ...	360	108	...	...	15	
Royal George ...	583	115	26	...	25	
Aberfoyle ...	416	112	8	...	15	
Daphne ...	760	107	2	...	22	1
Indemnity ...	741	108	1	...	27	
Elizabeth ...	485	81	6	...	19	1
Neleus ...	982	88	50	...	40	
George Rennie ...	54	162	...	...	11	
Stebonheath ...	1014	123	76	...	39	
Eliza Goddard ...	192	121	1	...	9	
John Bright ...	591	124	16	...	20	
Totals ...	23061	3637	1210	7	1013	4

No. III.

LIST of Vessels from the Port of Liverpool.

Name of Vessel.	Tonnage.	Number of Days.	Number of Passengers.	Deaths.	Crews.	Deaths.
Hamilton C. Kidston ...	1444	136	15	...	32	
White Star ...	2339	87	521	...	104	
British Trident ...	1399	84	380	1	57	
South Carolina ...	1662	90	206	1	52	
Oliver Lang ...	1236	87	374	12	54	
Miles Barton ...	963	86	175	1	35	
Arabian ...	1067	84	186	...	27	1
Merlin ...	1030	86	286	2	56	
Donald McKay ...	2560	81	660	14	103	1
Alchymist ...	919	98	1	...	26	2
Defence ...	810	88	50	...	35	
Champion of the Seas ...	2237	83	438	4	105	
Western Bride ...	1103	98	384	1	45	
Monteagle ...	1043	92	112	...	36	
Ben Nevis ...	1347	106	262	2	42	
Shackamaxon ...	1376	105	214	...	36	
David G. Flemming ...	1426	96	20	...	40	
James Carson ...	1164	115	...	...	32	
Constance ...	1106	96	104	1	35	
Shalimar ...	1402	88	249	...	52	
James Baines ...	2515	79	415	3	129	
Africa ...	1450	103	224	1	50	1
Queen of the East ...	1294	93	99	...	45	
Persian... ..	1132	107	...	...	31	
Star of the East ...	1219	88	100	1	46	
Emma ...	1049	88	165	1	45	
Lightning ...	1609	80	358	...	78	1
Albatross ...	1036	92	84	...	36	
Red Jacket ...	1649	75	263	...	70	1
Parsee ...	1170	110	20	1	42	
Balmoral ...	957	105	21	...	30	1
Invincible ...	1509	79	62	1	38	1
Jessie Munn ...	874	81	...	...	26	
Gipsy Bride ...	1457	100	268	1	57	
Fiery Cross ...	636	82	...	...	31	
Indian Queen ...	1050	105	90	1	44	
Totals ...	48289	3353	6806	49	1802	9

No. IV.

LIST of Vessels from various Scottish Ports.

Name of Vessel.	Tonnage.	Number of Days.	Number of Passengers.	Deaths.	Crews.	Deaths.
Bulwar... ..	203	173	...	...	12	
Alma ...	167	167	9	...	11	
George Fife ...	444	149	4	...	18	
Tarmia ...	620	92	7	...	20	
Tay ...	608	111	22	...	21	1
Glenshee ...	319	113	...	...	14	
Joanna Boag ...	377	97	8	...	15	...
White Eagle ...	997	118	59	...	45	1
Carried forward ...	3735	1020	109	...	156	2

Vessels from Scottish Ports—*continued.*

Name of Vessel.	Tonnage.	Number of Days.	Number of Passengers.	Deaths.	Crews.	Deaths.
Brought forward ...	3735	1020	109	...	156	2
Meteor ...	755	102	3	...	24	
Lord Warriston ...	1146	131	35	...	33	
Briseis ...	1141	101	16	...	35	
Glenroy ...	1220	94	34	...	46	
James Paton ...	384	87	...	...	16	
Forest Monarch ...	977	120	33	...	26	
Gulnare ...	1002	112	2	...	29	
Beemah ...	887	106	15	...	38	
Sea Star ...	580	89	12	...	23	
Ouangondy ...	1166	110	1	...	39	
Totals ...	12993	2072	260	...	465	2

No. V.

LIST of Vessels from various Ports in the United States.

Name of Vessel.	Tonnage.	Number of Days.	Number of Passengers	Deaths.	Crews.	Deaths.
Revenue ...	546	111	...	...	18	
Augustine Heard ...	419	121	...	...	20	1
Leodes ...	445	115	...	...	12	
Ocean Steed ...	800	106	85	...	21	1
Hindoo ...	550	137	...	...	20	
Terror ...	405	94	...	...	13	
Crystal Palace ...	650	109	77	...	21	
Hamlet ...	757	113	...	...	22	
Sweeden ...	648	117	3	...	23	
Eliza ...	370	117	...	...	22	4
Tickler ...	112	179	...	...	10	
Gray Feather ...	586	98	2	...	17	
Alert ...	764	117	5	...	20	
Metropolis ...	964	117	39	...	26	
Cossack ...	586	72	...	...	20	
Totals ...	8662	1723	211	...	285	6

No. VI.

LIST of Vessels carrying Chinese Passengers.

Name of Vessel.	Tonnage.	Number of Days.	Number of Passengers	Deaths.	Crews.	Deaths.
Eliza Jane ...	560	86	264	2	18	
Resolution ...	680	83	317	...	23	
Bombay ...	513	64	230	2	26	1
Alverton ...	409	79	187	...	16	
Hannah ...	260	89	100	2	37	
Maria Natividad ...	600	76	244	1	30	
Arturo ...	632	86	362	2	21	1
J. W. A. Lorenzen ...	750	53	381	1	18	1
General Blanco ...	987	107	489	2	24	1
J. A. Jessuron ...	185	38	11	...	10	
Annie ...	307	93	16	...	18	
Totals ...	5883	854	2601	12	241	4

No. VII.

LIST of Vessels carrying Government Immigrants.

Name of Vessel.	Tonnage.	Number of Days.	Number of Passengers.	Deaths.	Crews.	Deaths.
Samerang	582	92	226	1	35	
Tornado	1220	92	413	2	47	
Maria Hay	1000	92	366	3	41	
Western Bride	1103	98	384	1	45	
Thames	839	93	293	1	38	
Calliance	822	81	314	1	33	
Totals	5566	548	1996	9	239	

No. VIII.

AVERAGE Passage of Government Immigrant Vessels, with proportion of Deaths to Passengers, and rate per cent. of ditto.

Number of Vessels.	Average Passage.	Number of Passengers.	Deaths.	Rate per cent. of Deaths.
6	91 days	1996	9	·459

No. IX.

AVERAGE Passage of Vessels from the Ports of London and Liverpool, and from various Ports in Scotland and the United States, with proportion of Deaths to Passengers, and rate per cent. of ditto.

Where from.	No. of Vessels.	Average Passage.	No. of Passengers.	Deaths.	Rate per cent. of Deaths.
London	34	106 days	1210	7	·578
Liverpool	36	93 "	6806	49	·719
Scotland	18	115 "	260		
United States	15	114 "	211		

No. X.

AVERAGE Passage of Vessels carrying Chinese Passengers, with proportion of Deaths to Passengers, and rate per cent. of ditto.

Number of Vessels.	Average Passage.	Number of Passengers.	Deaths.	Rate per cent. of Deaths.
11	77 days	2601	12	·461

No. XI.

TOTAL Number of Vessels from all Ports, Crews, Proportion of Deaths, and rate per cent. of ditto.

Number of Vessels.	Number of Crews.	Number of Deaths.	Rate per Cent.
220	5690	31	·544

No. XII.

RETURN showing the total number of Passengers arrived from all Ports, with total Crews; also, the number of Deaths, and causes, distinguishing Passengers from Crews, and Adults from Children.

Total Passengers.	Total Deaths.	Adults.	Children.	Causes.	No. of Deaths.	Total Crews.	Total Deaths.	Causes.	No. of Deaths.
14648	81	43	38	Phthisis	6	5690	31	Drowned	14
				Pneumonia	4			Dysentery	4
				Bronchitis	4			Accident	2
				Diarrhœa	9			Disease of Stomach	1
				Dysentery	4			Stabbed	1
				Marasmus	5			Small Pox... ..	1
				Hydrocephalus ...	4			Scurvy	4
				Accident	1			Heart Disease ...	1
				Dropsy	2			Phthisis	1
				Croup	1			Debility	1
				Opium Smoking ...	3			Unknown	1
				Labour	2				
				Drowned	1				
				Measles	7				
				Dentition	3				
				Disease of Stomach	1				
				Hæmoptysis	1				
				Convulsions	4				
				Hooping Cough ...	1				
				Typhus Fever	4				
				Suicide	1				
				Rupture	1				
				Debility	5				
				Tabes Mesenterica ..	1				
				Syphilis	1				
				Unknown	5				

No. XIII.

RETURN of Vessels placed in Quarantine.

Date.	Vessel's Name.	Where from.	Nature of Disease causing Quarantine.	Duration of Quarantine.	Number of Passengers.	Deaths during Voyage.	Deaths in Quarantine.	Whether Government immigrant or other Vessel.
Sept. 20	Agen and Heinrich	Hamburg	Typhus fever	1 day	160	3	2	Private passenger.
Oct. 31	Sussex	London	Small-pox	10 days	90	1	...	Ditto.

REMARKS.

The vessels that have arrived during the last six months have been remarkably free from disease of every kind. This is chiefly to be attributed to the diminished immigration, as well as to the very small number of passengers brought by each vessel. Hence the various fevers, which are the direct result of overcrowding, are entirely prevented, and when other contagious diseases do occur, they are much more easily checked than they would be in vessels crowded with passengers.

The following is the method at present pursued in examining vessels. On going alongside a vessel careful enquiries are made respecting the health of the passengers during the voyage, as well as at the time of their arrival; also, as to whether she has touched at any port where infectious disease was known to prevail, or held communication with any infected vessel. If the answers to these questions are satisfactory, I proceed on board and inspect the passengers and crew. As masters of vessels cannot always be supposed to know whether any *contagious* disease exists on board their vessels, I am in the habit of visiting every case of sickness, so that no contagious disease can escape my notice.

The following important improvement in the ventilation of vessels has been introduced into ships carrying Government immigrants. The contrivance consists of a large tube, divided into two compartments, and protected from the weather at the top, which passes from the main to the 'tween decks, the heated air ascends through one division of the tube while the cold air descends through the other, and a constant current of pure air is thus afforded to the passengers. I have only seen it employed in one vessel, but there the result was most satisfactory.

With reference to the crews of vessels nothing of interest has come under my notice, with the exception of one vessel (the *Eliza*), which sailed from Boston on the 10th of July, and arrived here on the 5th of November. Four deaths from scurvy had occurred during the voyage in consequence of no lime juice having been served out to the men.

A. ROBERTSON, M.D.,
Health Officer.