COMMUNICATION.

{FOR THE COURIER.}

MR. EDITOR: The advantages which have accrued to this Province, from the introduction of able-bodied and industrious Emigrants, are, I believe, very generally admitted, and I need not stop to enumerate them; my object in this communication is to show some of the very serious evils which we suffer from their arriving at this Port, and suggest a remedy.

It has been asserted as a fact, which I have not yet seen or heard contradicted, that a certain merchant, (whom, may the assessors in their mercy not forget!) while in Ireland last winter with several vessels ready equipped for “the boys,” caused handbills to be posted round the country in which the most flattering prospects were held out, for any persons who would go out to New-Brunswick, and of course go in his ships. Now, these high wages, which were held out, cannot be realized by two-thirds – even the merchant [won’t] give them, although he has hitherto been the only gainer by the shipment; but what is still worse, there is not employment for them for any wages, and the consequence is, that the fathers of large families are walking off daily to Boston and other places, and leaving their wives and children, to be sent for when they get rich enough, which will be, when the fifteen dollars a head are taken off of all emigrants going to the States, and not till then, or perhaps not even then. Now, what are these families to do in the mean time? Suppose each to consist of a woman with five children, and the oldest only eight years, (and there are many such) – they cannot work for a living – they must not be allowed to starve – they must come on the Emigrant account for support.

I met the other day an old man, with his wife, and a blind boy, about 16 years of age, just landed from the Pomona, from Dublin; the blind boy attracting my attention, I stopped to speak to them – the old man I discovered was very much afflicted with
asthma, and he admitted that he could not work for “want of breath,” and the woman was too inform to do more than attend to the asthmatic old man, and the blind boy, now what is to become of this Trio? they cannot work for a living – they must not be allowed to starve – they must come on the Emigrant account for support.

I might cite many more such instances, were it necessary, to shew that the sick, the orphans, the widows with children, the cripples, the blind, and the very dregs of all this Emigration (so useful and beneficial to the Province generally) are left upon us in the City to bear the whole burthen of. It is quite impossible under such circumstances, that the Emigrant Fund can defray all the charges which will necessarily be made upon it, - the very expenses of the Board of Health, independently of those incurred by our Parish Officers, for the support and care of the sick alone, will monopolize the whole. I understand that there are forty Emigrants down with Fever at the Island, and as many more convalescent, and that there is a still greater number ill with Fever at the Alms House and Cholera Hospital, besides many more sick with other diseases at each place. The question now then comes to be – Will the inhabitants of this place consent to be taxed for the support of these sick and distressed Emigrants, all over the above the deficiency which will be sure to exist, by the Emigrant Fund not being sufficient for defraying the amount of expenses actually incurred? – on will they induce their Representatives to get an Act passed doubling the Head-money – that is, making it Two Dollars, instead of one? The latter is the only plan, and the time for doing it the present, while the Legislature is in Session; because if this Session passes without increasing this Head-money, we shall most certainly be taxed for the support of these sick Emigrants, as the Emigrant Fund will be found insufficient for the purpose, and the Legislature may be unwilling to give any thing to relieve us, out of any other Revenues at their disposal.

Another law that is equal called for, is one to protect us from the Paupers of Nova-Scotia and other places: it is notorious that they are shipped there by the Parish authorities, and we have no means, either of sending them back, or making the master responsible. They have laws to protect themselves, both in the United States and in Nova-Scotia, from the paupers of other places; in common justice, then, they should
keep their own, and not be perpetually shipping them to us; but we must have a stop put to this by a law of our own. It was only the other day, that a pauper, who had had his leg taken off in the Poor House at Halifax, and had been a resident in that House for three years, was shipped here by the authorities, and arrived safely in the schooner Sable, and is now to be seen pestering our doors for assistance, and waiting anxiously for the cold weather, to be accommodated with a snug berth in our Alms House, and to be supported by us. Shame! I say Shame!! if the Legislature does not pass a Law to protect us, and that immediately. Your’s, &c.

July 6th, 1837

CIVIS.

We understand that there are upwards of 170 individuals in the Parish Houses at this date – besides many sick and destitute families partially assisted out of doors. Of those within, more than 100 are sick and diseased – upwards of 50 of which number are fever cases.