To his Excellency the Governor, and their Honors of the Executive Council.

Gentlemen:—

I have the honor to present to your Board, a Report of my doings, as Superintendent of Alien Passengers for the port of Boston, from February 15th to December 31st, 1853, inclusive; likewise from January 1st to February 14th, inclusive, under the supervision of the late J. B. Munroe; in which you will find presented, the number of vessels arrived with aliens on board, the nations represented by the said vessels, the number of passengers brought therein, the ports from which they came, on what conditions they were permitted to land, and their general condition.

I have boarded 2,000 vessels, from all parts of the world, in 1,119 of which were brought 28,040 passengers, viz:—

In 54 American Vessels from England, . . . 12,913
  4 " " " Ireland, . . . 789
  2 " " " Sweden, . . . 520
  80 " " " British Provinces, . . . 1,901
  5 " " " Fayal, . . . 237
106 Steam-boats from American ports,. . . 351
  70 Vessels from all other ports, . . . 319

321 17,030
In 39 English Vessels from England, . . . . 4,853
  4 " " " Ireland, . . . . 582
687 " " " British Provinces, . . . . 4,758
  3 Swedish Vessels from Sweden, . . . . 456
65 of all other nations, . . . . 361

798 11,010
321 American Vessels, . . . . 17,030

1,119 Total, . . . . 28,040

There have been permitted to land, in conformity with the laws, as follows:

For those who were Americans, or had been in the State before, and for which no security or commutation could be required, . . . . 5,479
Number for which bonds have been taken, . . . . 12
" died before landing, . . . . 159
" commuted, $2 each, . . . . 21,905
" extra commuted, . . . . 263
" arrived in American Steam-boats from American ports, liable to be returned to the State from which they came, . . . . 222

Total, . . . . 28,040

The following table presents the amount of moneys received:

For 21,905 aliens, $2 each, . . . . $43,810 00
" 263 " $5 to $25 each, . . . . 3,007 00
" fines for violating the laws, . . . . 204 00
" yacht Gipsey, . . . . 600 00
" Passenger Lists, . . . . 14 94
" net sales of old safe, . . . . 21 60
From various persons, for assistance in sending paupers to Liverpool, . . . . 229 10
Outstanding debts due the State prior to February 14th, collected and carried to the credit of the late J. B. Munroe, in account, . . . . 384 00—$48,270 64
Received on account of Bonded Aliens for the following towns and cities:

City of Boston, $1,755 65
“ Lowell, 37 65
“ Roxbury, 279 28
“ Worcester, 2 17
“ Charlestown, 148 14
“ Lawrence, 86 75
“ Lawrence, 7 00
Town of Danvers, 41 42

Total, $50,628 70

The foregoing amount has all been paid over to the Treasurer, and to the parties for which it was collected, and reports made to the Treasurer of the Commonwealth, from time to time, agreeable to the law, and vouchers for the same placed on file—with the exception of a deficiency of $671 55 in the account of the late Superintendent, from January 1st to February 14th, inclusive—there being available assets in the hands of his administrator, to meet this deficit.

During the past year, very many destitute, friendless, aged and infirm persons, have applied for and received assistance to return to Ireland, at their request,—many of whom came direct from various almshouses, and all would have become inmates of our almshouses, had they remained in this country; as all of them affirmed they had friends in Ireland who would take care of them, it was no less a deed of charity to the applicants themselves, than a saving of great expense to the State, to send them home. The whole number thus sent, is fifty-eight. The total expense of their passages, provisions, &c., amounting to $829 02; of this sum, $307 20 was contributed by various persons and towns in which they were located, leaving the net expense to the State of $521 82, being a fraction short of $9 for every person sent.

Eighty-eight paupers and destitute persons, part of them being extra commuted passengers, and others who were residents of other States, and of Canada, making application for
relief, were forwarded to the places where they belong—thereby relieving the State of many life-paupers.

Total expense thus incurred, $339 87
Towards this was received, from various persons, $23 75
From owners of vessels, in extra com-mutation, 11l 55 135 30
Leaving the net amount of expense to the State, $204 57

Since March last, there have been written and mailed five hundred letters from the Alien Office, for newly arrived passengers, to their friends in all parts of the country, requesting the necessary funds to be forwarded, to enable them to proceed to them—which request was generally complied with. In the meantime, a watchful care has been kept over them, to see that they were not imposed upon, and on the arrival of their funds, an agent was sent to purchase their tickets, and to give such directions as to insure them a safe passage to their friends. No case has come to my knowledge, of any imposition being practised on the emigrant by runners or agents for boarding-houses; and as the system of vigilance now adopted is so well carried out, they would find it very unprofitable business.

As evidence of the good resulting from writing these letters, if considered merely in a pecuniary point of view, I need only say, that the amount of money received in answer to them, since the first of March last, for the benefit of the poor emigrants, is six hundred and ninety-nine dollars; and, when we add to this, the joyous and friendly greeting of friend with friend, the amount is immeasurably increased, beyond the computation of dollars and cents.

With regard to the character and condition of emigrants arrived at this port, the past year, I am pleased to say they have been far better than of any former year. Although the mortality has been so alarmingly great in emigrant ships arrived at ports in other States, there has been but very little sickness, and a smaller number of deaths than usual, on board of ships arrived at this port, from England and Ireland: the
greatest number of deaths in any one ship, being fourteen; and, in this instance, the ship arrived in the depth of winter, after a long and boisterous passage.

Perhaps it would not be of any disadvantage to the emigrant and the public in general, to mention here the admirable system adopted by the only regular line of packet ships from this port to Liverpool. An abstract of the number brought by them since the first of January, 1853, and the very small ratio of deaths which occurred, will convince the most sceptical, that the greatest possible care was paid in the selection of their food, and suitable attention given by the owners to the proper ventilation and to the cleanliness of their ships, through the unwearied efforts of officers having charge of them. To their agents here, great praise is due, for the prompt manner in which the poor emigrant is forwarded to his new home—to all parts of our country. To those bound to the Western States, an agent accompanies them, to protect them from imposition, and from the snares of the unprincipled.

Out of 13,847 passengers landed here, only 54 deaths occurred on the passage; the greatest proportion were from the aged and infants. All other ships from the same ports, have been equally fortunate, and the result is, that the passengers were well and strong, and able to go to work immediately on landing—thereby lessening the chance of ever becoming a burden to the State or country.

From what I have learned of former emigration from Ireland, and from my own observation, I am fully convinced there has been much less suffering among the emigrants the past year, and that they are a better and more intelligent class of persons, than have arrived in former years, and better calculated to become good citizens. By far the greatest portion of them leave here immediately on landing, for the manufacturing cities, and for the Western and other States.

In relation to emigrants from Sweden; they have been less fortunate. In five vessels arrived from Gottenburg, with 969 passengers, there have occurred 92 deaths. In the ship where 62 deaths occurred, the number being larger than in any other vessel, was probably much increased by the cholera, then raging at the port they left; many came on board sick with the disease, 40 having died the first fifteen days out. The deaths
on board of this and one other vessel, are doubtless to be attributed in part, to improper food, the passengers, per contract, furnishing their own provisions; this, connected with their using water put into oil casks, must have greatly increased the mortality.

The emigrants from one ship were all landed at Deer Island, where they were well cleansed and recruited, and the ship purified before permitted to land the passengers in the city. The emigrants by the above ships, left immediately on landing, for the West.

In conformity with the law passed in April, 1853, in relation to passengers in transit, I have refunded $2,898 for 1,449 passengers, which were forwarded chiefly to Buffalo, Chicago, and other Western cities. With regard to the working of that law, as far as we can now judge, its effects are beneficial, both to the State, the commercial interest, and to the emigrants themselves.

The owners and consignees are anxious, and even willing, in cases of extreme destitution, to have them forwarded to the West at their expense, as the surest method of preventing their ever becoming any further expense, either to the State or to themselves. Their removal also is greatly to the advantage of the emigrants, as they are sure of finding immediate employment in the new States. The only objectionable feature in the law, is to be found in the latter clause of the first section, which, if amended, would save considerable expense to the State.

In closing my remarks, it affords me satisfaction to acknowledge the readiness and fidelity with which the duties of the several departments have been performed, by those in my employ.

All which is respectfully submitted,

A. G. GOODWIN,
Superintendent of Alien Passengers.