

Letter: John Morrison to the Colonial Secretary's Office 26 Oct 1864
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Correspondence relative to the Despatch of Emigrants to New Zealand

The NZ Emigration Board to the Colonial Secretary, Auckland; Office of the NZ Emigration Board, 3, Adelaide-place, London Bridge, London, E.C., 26 Oct 1864

Sir, We have the honor to forward under another copy by this mail copies of correspondence with H.M. Emigration Commissioners with regard to furnishing Surgeons from their lists for the NZ Government Emigration Ships we from time to time despatch. We have up to this time appointed three of their nominated surgeons, and we find the Commissioners in this and other matters at all times ready to assist us. We have also forwarded copy of letter from Mr Jonas King, Surgeon-Superintendent of the emigrant ship Matoaka previous to that ship's final departure from the Channel on the pilot leaving her, and is the last communication we have had from the vessel. Upon the whole, it is satisfactory no farther cases of sickness had occurred, and we trust she will reach her destination without any farther casualty. Since addressing you on the 26th ultimo, we have received the amount of the bond therein referred to - viz., £5800; and the money-payment of £3780 we are to receive from the Crown Agents next month. Beyond these amounts we have received no additional funds for the purposes of emigration. The £20,000 expected from the Bank of New Zealand has not been received, and at present there appears little prospect of it being paid. The ship Ganges will be despatched from Cork with about 400 Irish emigrants on the 2nd November, and we purpose despatching the Bombay from this port with English emigrants on 22nd November; and Mr Clark has engaged the ship Viola to sail from the Clyde about same time. The Bombay will carry about 340 emigrants. To equalise as far as possible the sexes, we forward a considerable number of unmarried females, per Ganges. The great majority of these intend remaining in Auckland, and it is with this understanding that we give them free passages. We have no difficulty whatever in getting any number of young men, unmarried; and probably we shall in future have to send a greater number of these in every ship. It is almost impossible in taking families to confine the children under ten years to a reasonable number; in almost all cases they exceed the limit of two in each family under that age. We take the liberty of suggesting that some previous arrangement should be made for facilitating the unmarried females per Ganges in obtaining situations as soon as possible after arriving at Auckland. There are seventy in number going by that vessel, and if a committee of Auckland ladies would interest themselves in this matter it would be of very great importance. Wm. S. Grahame, John Morrison.