

Letter: John Morrison to Nelson Emigration Commissioners 17 Jan 1859
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Written from 173 Fenchurch Street, London
Received via Marseilles 18 Apr 1859

Sir, Since I addressed you by the Southampton portion of this mail, I have received from Mr Tytler of Edinburgh your communication bearing date the 25th Sept last, intimating that the Commissioners of Emigration for the Province of Nelson, had decided that the Contract for the Conveyance of Emigrants entered into with myself by Tender dated 27th March last; shall cease and determine three months after the Receipt of a Notice to that effect from the Commissioners, or their Treasurer (Mr Tytler) in England.

In reply there to, I have to request that you will be pleased to lay before the Commissioners, this my ready compliance to be regulated by their decision, I have also intimated this to Mr Tytler and offered by every means in my power to afford him every facility for carrying out the views of the Commissioners.

I am well aware of the just cause of apprehension, at present, that must rest against my self, from the proceedings carried out in my name, in reference to the "Camilla"; done, as they were, in my absence from England, when I was ignorant of all, and contrary to my instructions by an unfaithful partner, who has so shamefully compromised my Name, that under these extenuating circumstances, as far as I am concerned, I would respectfully solicit the forbearance of the Commissioners, while I am prepared to submit to the strictest enquiry into any Shipments entrusted to my care, my earnest desire being to assist and protect the individuals to be sent out.

I may be permitted, under the circumstances, to report to you the means adopted to secure for those sent per "Mariner" every aid. Of the Germans many were at a loss how to find their way to England. I wrote to the British Consul to assist them, on their arrival in London, via Hull Bremen & Hamburgh I had authorized persons to ... them and take them to quarters kept by Germans, and recommended by the London Emigration Officers, for none could speak English, here they were boarded and lodged free of all charge to themselves till the vessel left the Docks. Those from England were equally cared for, I claimed for, and paid them myself any detention money due them; from the practical experience I had obtained of an Emigrants position at sea, I endeavoured to advise them, and was present when the Emigration Officers inspected the ship as to fittings and ventilation prior to embarkation and subsequently when every Emigrant was mustered before them, nor did I leave the vessel until it was under weigh, and had the satisfaction of learning that the Emigrants were satisfied with my exertions on their behalf. And apologizing to the Commissioners for this Report of my own doings. I have the honor to be Sir, Your most obedient servant, John Morrison