

**'Departure of the first party of settlers to Otago' from the Otago Journal, No.1,
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The Otago Journal, published in Edinburgh between 1848 and 1852, promoted the new settlement at Otago to potential emigrants across Scotland. It included letters from Scots who had already emigrated, as well as information about the settlement and accounts of the journey from Scotland to New Zealand. The Journal was produced by the New Zealand Company and the Association for Promoting the Settlement of Otago.

Transcription

Departure of the first party of settlers to Otago

(from Greenock Advertiser of 23d November 1847)

On Saturday a very interesting service was held on board the fine ship Phillip Laing, 550 tons register, Captain Ellis, the vessel about to proceed with emigrants to the new colony of Otago.

Our readers, we believe, are generally aware, that this ship has been chartered by the Court of Directors of the New Zealand Company to sail from Greenock with these passengers, who have been each selected with great caution, after careful scrutiny, and the production of the most satisfactory testimonials as to character and blameless life. Ample and suitable arrangements for their safety and comfort during the passage have been made by the Directors, who dispatched here Mr Alston, one of their officers, who has spared no pains to render the ship in all respects suited for the important business on which she is employed, and his attention has been studiously devoted to the proper fitting up of the vessel, and to the sufficiency and quality of the provisions. An able and experienced surgeon, Dr Ramsay, has also been appointed, whose character and qualifications are highly guaranteed, the latter by the certificate of the President of the Royal College of Surgeons. Care has also been taken of the moral and religious interests of the emigrants. The very valuable services of the Rev Thomas Burns, formerly of Monkton, late of Portobello, have been secured, and we have no doubt he will be found not only an able and wise instructor, but a judicious adviser, and a friend, the energy of whose character and example will render his counsels doubly valuable. The rev.

gentleman is a nephew of our national Bard, and son of Gilbert Burns. The fact of the relationship can scarce fail to form a constant and pleasing tie between the new settlement and the land to which one section of its population cannot fail to look back with feelings of affectionate interest. The only other official to whom we may allude is the schoolmaster, and we were glad to hear that the emigrants are to have the useful and important assistance in the work of training the young, and instructing the less informed, of a gentleman in every way qualified for his work. Mr Blackie takes with him high certificates of his ability and success.

With all these inducements, provisions, and care, it could scarce be doubted that the passengers themselves would be people of a class very superior to what are generally found in emigrant vessels. And this is the case. About two hundred and fifty proceed in the Philip Laing, and they generally, we may say entirely, present a cleanly, comfortable, and well-provided appearance, so much so, indeed, as almost to make one regret that our own country should lose the benefits of the industry and energies of so many of her children; but we must console ourselves with the hope, that they are about to lay the foundation on the other side of the globe of a great empire, destined, in the hands of Providence, to assist the mother-country and her other offshoots in spreading over the whole world the blessings of civilisation and Christianity.