

Letter: Bishop Suter to John Morrison 22 Feb 1866

Nelson Provincial Council Proceedings: Introduction of Immigrants by Bishop Suter

Written from All Saints, Spicer-street, Spitalfields, N.E.

My Dear Sir, I am expecting in the course of a few months to go out to Nelson, and in accordance with a suggestion, write to ask you to communicate with his Honor the Superintendent of Nelson on the following proposal. I am informed that a moderate immigration is desired, and that female servants are much wanted in the colony.

As there are many who wish to go, but are deterred on account of the want of some known person to accompany them, it has struck me that it might be an opportunity, when I went out, of taking some of that class with me, and also a few others who might be carefully selected for the colony.

My time is a little uncertain, and I expected to have been in Nelson long before this, but I think I shall be in England long enough to enable me to receive an answer to this proposal. I shall be willing to take steps to find out as many suitable young persons as the Superintendent might authorise to come on the usual terms, and Mrs Suter would assist me in this selection, and on taking an oversight of them during the voyage. I should therefore be glad to know whether the plan meets the approval of the Government of Nelson, and that they would wish to avail themselves of it and to what extent.

In order to carry this out, it would be desirable that I receive an answer by the return mail, so that if the answer was to the effect that they desired to accept the offer, I might be able to set about the selection at once. I should be glad to find out that they are willing that a certain number of young female servants, of artizans, and a few married couples should be taken free on undertaking to repay the passage in two years time.

The task of bringing them out after selection would be no easy one, but if the colony were likely to benefit by it, I should be very ready to give my services for the purpose.

I have had considerable experience in sending people out to the colonies, and from what I have heard of their respective success, have been able to form some idea of the kind of Colonists wanted as immigrants, and I know too, how hard it is to get many of the right sort, nevertheless I am sure there are many who would willingly let their daughters go, if it were under good superintendence, I may therefore hope for an answer to this by the July mail, and remain &c., Andrew Burn Suter, Bishop designate of Nelson.