

**THE HORRORS OF THE COOLIE TRADE.**—An investigation, instituted by the marine department of the Board of Trade, has for several days been sitting at the Local Marine Board, Cornhill, relative to the frightful mortality of Chinese kidnapped on board the British ship Duke of Portland at Hong Kong, for shipment to Havana. Mr. Duncan Dunbar, the Chairman of the Board, presided, and Mr. Thomas Hamlin, the owner of the Duke of Portland, was present during the proceeding. It appeared that the Duke of Portland left Hong Kong with 332 coolies, and that 128 of them died before the vessel reached Havana. This awful mortality was caused by congestive fever, induced, it was alleged, by the dirty habits of the Chinese. The captain and other witnesses gave a horrible description of scenes that took place during the voyage. At the close of the inquiry the Board reported in the following terms: "That no blame attaches to the owner and master, or any one connected with the ship. That Captain Seymour's conduct to the emigrants appears to have been kind and attentive, and every possible precaution was used by him to decrease the mortality. Dr. Ludgate appears also to have exerted himself for the same purpose. It appears to this Board that the mortality was aggravated by the great heat and unusual length of the passage (150 days), caused by the sailing of the ship in an improper season. She sailed full one month later than she ought to have done to enable her to get down the China Seas."—*London Star, Jan. 29.*