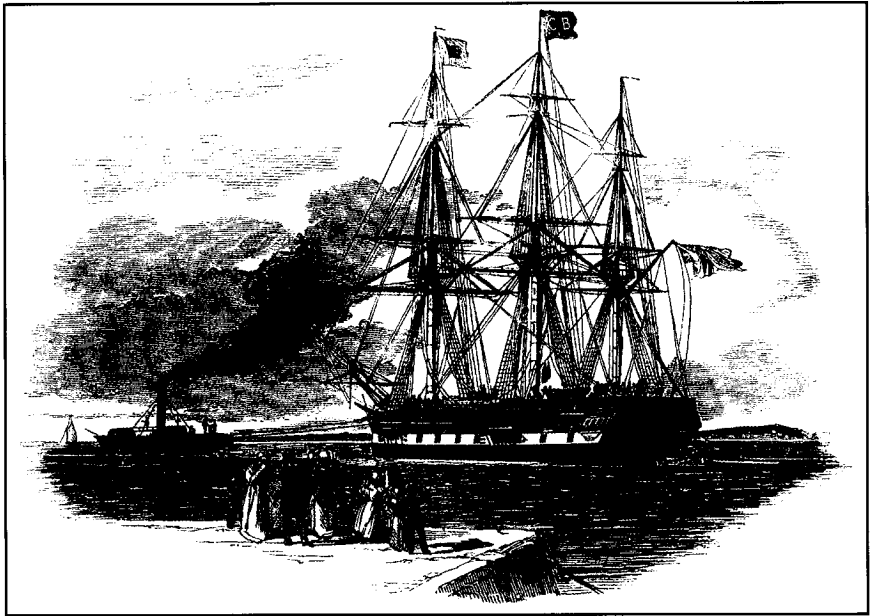


So this account ends with the departure of an emigrant family from Liverpool, as told in the *Illustrated London News* of 6 July 1850. The port is humming with activity, as scores of ships each carrying 400 or more passengers prepared to sail. The family, on arrival, have to undergo medical tests to prove that they are fit to travel. Provided that they are certified free of infectious disease, they can go on board up to 24 hours before departure time. At first there is considerable jollity, including music and dancing between decks, but as the ship fills and the time of sailing approaches a more sombre mood takes over.

The ship is then towed five or ten miles down the Mersey by a tug. During this journey, the ship is searched for stowaways and all the passengers are assembled on the quarter deck for a roll-call, which can take between two and four hours. The purpose of the roll-call is to establish the passenger list and to check that they all have valid tickets. Any stowaways or passengers without tickets are sent back to Liverpool on the tug, and the ship sets sail for Canada.



*An emigrant ship leaving port.*