

NEWFOUND-
LAND.

taxation, it was of little consequence: the people had asked for the local government with the express understanding that they were to maintain it themselves; their representatives had voluntarily and cheerfully imposed the tax, as being the most appropriate and least onerous; and with one exception (and that individual at the time absent from ill health) the Council was composed of Government officers who have no stake in the island, and therefore could not fairly object to the Bill on personal considerations. And as little to be commended is the threat the president held out, that, whatever the fate of the Bill might be with the Council, he would disregard it on the bench; and after having unnecessarily travelled out of his way in discussing the measure before him, Mr. Tucker cannot be surprised if the community have (however unjustly) taxed him with an intention of rendering abortive His Majesty's gracious intentions by the course he has pursued.

Your Lordship will readily feel the very peculiar position in which I now find myself. With the intention of closing my demands on the Treasury for the support of the island on the first of next month, (as from your instructions, and the 2d & 3d of Will., c. 78, I collect, I ought to do), I am precluded from calling upon the House of Assembly to provide means to meet the necessary expenditure, and I understand that after they shall have prepared a memorial to His Majesty, to be forwarded by the conveyance which takes this, that I shall be applied to by them to continue to carry on the financial department until the decision of His Majesty's Government shall be known. The body to whom I should naturally look for advice upon the present occasion is His Majesty's Council; but its conduct has been so decidedly at variance with my opinions, that it would be useless to consult it in the present emergency; which comes so fully within the view I have taken of the question of an Executive and Legislative Council in the communication I had the honour to address your Lordship on the 13th February, that I trust it will have some weight in the decision your Lordship may come to upon it.

In closing this despatch, I think it right to add, that the Assembly were desirous of passing their Revenue Bill with all expedition, knowing that vessels with a quantity of the articles intended to be taxed were daily expected, and there is every reason to believe that, in consequence of the failure of the Bill, the place will soon be overstocked with them, and the loss of at least one twelvemonth's revenue will probably result to the colony.

Your Lordship will readily believe that I shall be most anxious to receive your commands as to my future conduct in the anomalous position in which I am placed; and as vessels almost daily sail from Liverpool for this port after the first of next month, may I request your Lordship will be good enough to forward your despatch through the same channel as those communications you honoured me with in November last, by which means I shall be in possession of your wishes many weeks sooner than I could be through the usual channel of the North American mail.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Thos. Cochrane.*

Encl. in No. 3.

Enclosure in No. 3.

To his Excellency Sir *Thomas John Cochrane*, Knight, Governor and Commander-in-chief in and over the Island of *Newfoundland* and its Dependencies, &c. &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

WE the representatives of His Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects the people of Newfoundland, beg leave at this time humbly to bring to the notice of your Excellency the circumstances of embarrassment in which this colony is placed owing to the rejection by the Legislative Council of the Bill lately passed in the House of Assembly, granting to His Majesty certain duties on all wines, and on all brandy, gin, rum, and other spirituous liquors imported into this island.

In the early part of the Session your Excellency was pleased to lay before us an estimate of the civil establishment, and also a statement of the sum necessary to be raised, in addition to the small amount of revenue at present at our disposal, for the purpose of defraying the charges of the civil establishment for the current year.

After having obtained, through application to your Excellency, those documents and that information requisite to enable us to judge of the necessity and propriety of the supplies to be voted, we did, in due time, take into our mature consideration the ways and means of raising such additional amount of revenue as would meet the public expenses of the