

ABSTRACT—Census of 1845.

DISTRICT.	PROTESTANTS.	CATHOLICS.
Conception Bay - - - -	16,446	11,580
Trinity Bay - - - -	7,518	1,283
Bonavista Bay - - - -	5,418	1,809
Fogo - - - -	5,616	1,128
Burin - - - -	2,407	1,951
Fortune Bay, including La Poil, which is not in the electoral district.	4,703	392
St. John's - - - -	6,211	18,985
Ferryland - - - -	169	4,412
Placentia and St. Mary's - -	1,018	5,455

Which return 9 members to the Assembly.

Which return 6 members to the Assembly.

To this communication we received the following reply:—

My Dear Sir,

Colonial Office, 1 August 1853.

THE Duke of Newcastle is very much engaged at present, but hopes to be able to fix some time for the pleasure of seeing you again before you leave England; that with respect to your note of Saturday, the Duke wishes me to remind you that you were expressly told by his Grace that it would not be in his power (however willing) to come to any decision on the affairs of Newfoundland during the sitting of Parliament, and that before promulgating any such decision, when arrived at, it would be necessary for his Grace first to communicate his views to the Governor of the colony.

Believe me, &c.

(signed) Henry Roberts, Private Secretary.

P. F. Little, Esq.

R. J. Parsons, Esq.

On the receipt of this communication we addressed the following letter to his Grace, and transmitted it, with Mr. Hume's of the same date, to the Colonial Office:

My Lord Duke,

Tavistock Hotel, London, 4 August 1853.

THE House of Assembly of Newfoundland having requested us to solicit a Member of the House of Lords to present to that branch of the Legislature an address similar to that which we had the honour of presenting to you on the subject of responsible government, we take the liberty of soliciting your Grace to honour the colony we represent by taking charge of it, if you have no particular objection to its presentation. We are induced to make this request from our unbounded confidence in you, and your expressed desire to meet the wishes of the inhabitants of that colony.

With reference to the communication which we had the honour to receive from Mr. Roberts, on the 1st instant, we earnestly hope that your Grace may be enabled, consistently with official rule, to comply with the request contained in Mr. Hume's note, herewith enclosed, which fully expresses our views.

We have, &c.

(signed) Philip F. Little
Robert J. Parsons.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle,
&c. &c. &c.

Mr. Hume's Second Letter to the Duke of Newcastle.

My Lord,

Bryanston-square, 4 August 1853.

AFTER the interview I had the honour to attend with the deputies from the Assembly of Newfoundland, and the satisfactory manner in which you received their communications, I hope you will be able to give these gentlemen some assurance as to the probable course you will recommend to the cabinet as to placing that colony on the same footing of responsible government as Prince Edward Island and other British North American colonies.

I am not aware of any objections to give Newfoundland, as soon as leisure shall permit the necessary arrangements, that kind of government which Lord John Russell stated was the best for the colony of Canada, and which Lord Grey intimated in his despatch was necessary, when general objections existed to the present Government.

These gentlemen do not consider that they will have fulfilled their instructions, and the confidence placed in them by the Assembly of the island, if they return without some more decided and definite answer to their reasonable and constitutional request.

I have presented the petition of the Assembly to the House of Commons, and only recommended it to the favourable consideration of the Commons.