

local legislature, has proved the people of Newfoundland unfit for the enjoyment or exercise of the representative government granted to them by his late Majesty William the Fourth. Under these heads may be classed the various charges brought against the colonists by the Chamber of Commerce at St. John's, and the merchants engaged in the trade residing in London, Liverpool, Bristol, and Poole; and the objects of the prayer of their petitions and memorials are,—that her Majesty's Government would, in the first place, send out an adequate military force to protect the lives and property of the loyal and peaceable; and further, that the present Constitution should be abrogated, and that a mode of government, to consist of a Governor, assisted by a Council, to be named by the Crown, should be established in its place.

If the respectable merchants on this side of the water, and the Chamber of Commerce at St. John's, had, instead of these general and sweeping charges, only stated some of the particular facts where life and property have been endangered, they would be more likely to gain credence with her Majesty's Government. They have not done so; and I shall, as the humble advocate of the people of Newfoundland, at once meet them, and with a reply equally general, by saying, without fearing contradiction, and after an intimate acquaintance with the people for upwards of thirty years, that in no part of her Majesty's dominions are life and property more secure than in her ancient colony of Newfoundland. I shall not content myself with this general statement, but I shall demonstrate the peaceable and moral conduct of the people of Newfoundland by the strongest proofs, which will defy contradiction.

I have first to call your Lordship's attention to the dutiful and loyal address of the House of Assembly to her Majesty, which I had the honour of moving at the close of the last session of the Legislature. That address is only an echo of the universal feelings of the people. After expressing their devoted loyalty and attachment to her Majesty's person and Government, and claiming for their constituents a moral and religious character not inferior to that of the people of any other portion of her Majesty's dominions, it states, "That Newfoundland is nearly as large as England; the inhabitants are settled in various harbours along the coast, far distant from the capital and from each other; surrounded by the unimproved wilderness, there is not, except in St. John's, a fort, garrison, or soldier; and the civil force to preserve the peace in these distant settlements does not *exceed* one or two constables, and, in many harbours, not even one constable; yet, notwithstanding, a civil or criminal process issuing from her Majesty's Court at St. John's can be executed in the most distant and most populous districts in the island. As an example, we humbly beg to call your Majesty's attention to one case amongst others, which occurred during the heat and excitement of the contested elections of