

## —No. 3.—

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *John Harvey*, K.C.B., to Lord *Stanley*, dated Government House, Newfoundland, 21 December 1841.

WITH reference to one of the concluding paragraphs of my confidential despatch of the 6th October, I have now the honour to invite your Lordship's attention to the following observations:—

Having since the date of that despatch seen some reason to apprehend that to find at present in this colony a sufficient number of persons of suitable respectability, intelligence and attainments, from which to construct a machinery of government and legislation so extensive as two Councils and an increased Assembly, may not be easy, if it be even practicable, I have turned my attention to the devising of some means of escape from this dilemma, without depriving the people of their elective franchise; in doing this, the suggestion contained in Lord Goderich's despatch, No. 15, of 27th July 1832, has naturally presented itself to my mind; and after having given it mature consideration, I am inclined to the opinion that a modification, or rather a slight extension of the plan therein suggested of uniting the Council and Assembly in one legislative body, might perhaps, with the addition of a Council of advice for the Governor, properly composed, constitute a form of government not unadapted to the present condition of this colony.

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I now proceed to Lord Goderich's suggestion, and to the adaptation of it to the actual circumstances of this colony; and in expressing my ideas on this point, I would merely submit that the number of ex-officio members of the General Assembly be somewhat increased, say from three to five. As an experimental measure, and one which might without difficulty or delay be carried into effect, I would propose that the Council thus composed should be united to the same number of representatives of the people to be chosen for the same electoral districts, as sat in the last House of Assembly,—the argument for the extension of the number of that body\* being considerably weakened, in my judgment, if not altogether destroyed by the addition which would be made to the numbers of the General Legislative Assembly by the nine members of the Legislative Council; the Assembly would then consist of twenty-four Members, of which fifteen would be chosen by the people,—a number sufficient to try the experiment, particularly as the Assembly would have power to increase its number by legislative enactment, so as to meet the increase of the population of the island.

## —No. 4.—

(Confidential.)

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *John Harvey*, K.C.B., to Lord *Stanley*, dated Government House, Newfoundland, 23 December 1841.

I do myself the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 19th ultimo, marked "Confidential," the contents of which shall receive my early and serious consideration and alteration. In the meantime, your Lordship will peruse, I trust with satisfaction, the modified suggestion which I have been induced to place before you in a confidential despatch, written a short time previous to the receipt of that from your Lordship, which I have now before me, relative to the union of the Council and Assembly, in one legislative body; to that despatch, therefore, written in anticipation of the arrival of the mail packet, whose almost immediate return leaves no time to do more than acknowledge communications I have the honour to refer.

\* To obtain a sufficient quorum, and thus to guard against (what has already occurred) the control of the public purse, and, in some respects, the management of public affairs falling into the hands of a few members of the Assembly at the close of a session.

## No. 3.

Extract Despatch from Sir J. Harvey to Lord Stanley, 21 Dec. 1841.

For Lord Goderich's Despatch, 27 July 1832, vide Papers ordered by the House of Commons to be printed, 7 August 1832, No. 704.

## No. 4.

Extract Despatch from Sir J. Harvey to Lord Stanley, 23 Dec. 1841.